

French lorry drivers defy riot police to restore blockade

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

FRENCH lorry drivers set up a dozen more road blocks last night after an army tank and riot police broke up barricades on several motorways. Trunk roads and motorways were still blocked in at least 200 places as the hauliers' protest, now in its second week, bit into the economy and dragged the government, of Pierre Bérégovoy deeper into trouble.

The British Road Haulage Association reported two attacks on British drivers. One, heading north to the Channel, had his brake pipes cut and another had bricks thrown through his window by French drivers. The association said that attacks on British drivers were still isolated but could increase.

In Italy, strikes disrupted rail and air traffic yesterday and lorry drivers again threatened to copy their French colleagues.

France today there is only one step from the ridiculous to the sublime

Ray Clancy and Lin Jenkins meet the men behind the barricades near the Channel ports while Harvey Elliott goes the pretty way. Plus the roads to avoid and telephone advice lines
Pages 2 and 3

Come on in, the water's lovely: public pressure has led to the French tackling pollution at key seaside resorts, although one in ten beaches still does not come up to EC standards
Page 3

As riot police waded into battle with the workers, an obstinate president remains aloof. Charles Bremner hears the echoes of '68 and asks: can Mitterrand win where de Gaulle lost?
Page 16

Enjoy a feast of good food and fine wine with Robin Young's guide to fifty favourite restaurants, plus your chance to win a share in a Bordeaux vineyard with Passport to France
Life and Times, page 4

In Rome, air traffic controllers staged a 7-hour stoppage, delaying most flights in and out of the capital. Alitalia flights were held up for 20 to 30 minutes and British Airways flights by up to an hour. Italian railways were also hit by a strike that halted services for six hours.

M Bérégovoy, who has promised tough measures to end the French hauliers' protest, ordered the CRS riot police and the tank, which was deployed in the early morning at Phalempin, the site of the first barrier last week on the A1 highway from the Belgian border to Paris. After the AMX-30 tank towed a truck clear of the highway several dozen vehicles were moved by their drivers and set up blocks elsewhere. CRS units prevented the entry into

France of trucks at the Rekkem border post with Belgium and forced open two other road-blocks, one between Arles and Fos-sur-Mer, in southern France, and the other in the east, on the Lyons-Geneva highway. The port towns of Normandy and the Channel were besieged more heavily than ever by protesting drivers, although local officials said that British tourists continued

to pour across the Channel and head for their holiday destinations via minor roads. The lorry drivers' union, which represents only a fraction of the protesters, called for a national transport stoppage today in retaliation. It did not appear to have been heeded by train and bus unions.

Farmers and vegetable growers, whose produce is perishing for lack of transport, called for "a total economic blockade", saying they were losing 25 million francs (£2.5 million) a day from the government's refusal to negotiate with the hauliers.

In Britain, workers at the Peugeot Talbot were called back to work after being laid off because of the dispute. A convoy of lorries that had taken a week to bring vital components through the blockade arrived at the company's Coventry plants.

The Road Haulage Association said that many owner-operators would need help. Continued on page 20, col 4

TODAY IN THE TIMES

HIGH FLIERS



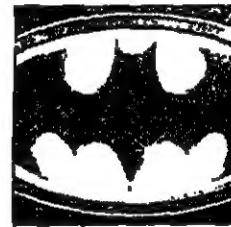
The head of a hospital today needs to be a chief executive, PR expert and accountant rolled into one: Howard Davis has firm ideas on how to produce such an animal
Public Management Life & Times, page 7

HI, FLIER!



The squawking, the feeding, the worries about that first trip out alone: parenting is so demanding — especially when baby is a blackbird
Life & Times, page 5

HIE, FLIERS!



Batman is back — and so are the badges, buttons and baubles. Geoff Brown bemoans the transformation of Hollywood from dream factory to merchandise machine
Life & Times, page 1

Dentists vote to bar new NHS patients

BY ALISON ROBERTS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN'S dentists voted yesterday not to accept any new national health patients, putting the profession on course for a confrontation with the government and raising fears for the future of NHS dental treatment.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, signalled the government's determination to press ahead with a 7 per cent cut in government fees for NHS treatment and pledged to keep the service going, if necessary by hiring more "salaried" dentists working only for the NHS. She had earlier told dentists to think "long and hard" before taking any action that might jeopardise an improvement in care.

She confirmed her promise of a "fundamental review" of fees, to be led by Brian Mawhinney, the health minister. Its terms of reference are to be announced shortly, and it will report quickly, according to government sources. "We must find a system which is fair to dentists, fair to patients and fair to the NHS," Mrs Bottomley said.

The British Dental Association will advise its 16,000 members not to accept new patients of any age after the results of a ballot on action against the fee-cutting proposal. Almost 60 per cent voted in favour of the move and 80 per cent voted to refuse to treat new charge-paying adults. About 26 million people are not registered with a dentist and may now find it hard to be accepted under the NHS.

A proposal to remove registered adults from lists was narrowly defeated, but the association warned that the drift into private practice would become a flood if the fee cuts, to take effect from tomorrow, go ahead. More radical action was proposed by the General Dental Health Practitioners' Association, whose 4,000 members voted to refuse NHS treatment to all existing and new patients not entitled to free care.

Joe Rich, chairman of the General Dental Services Committee, wrote to the prime minister yesterday in a final effort to avert the fee cut. He said: "It seems incredible that any prime minister who claimed to support the NHS should be party to this. The government has a moral obligation to the people of this country to fund adequate dental treatment." He said that 10 per cent of practices were in financial difficulty and that the figure would increase dramatically after the cuts took effect.

A survey of BDA members before the ballot showed that, if the fee cut was implemented, many dentists would withdraw from NHS contracts. Almost all dentists see children under the NHS, but only 78 per cent said that they could afford to continue doing so after Wednesday. Almost 50 per cent said that they would do all they could to reduce their dependence on the NHS.

The BDA and the GDPA will now send the results of the ballots back to members, who will be asked to consider the implications of industrial action. Derek Watson, chairman of the GDPA, said: "We are looking at a smaller NHS, with pregnant women and children still being treated. But the remaining three quarters of patients will be asked to pay the whole amount for their treatment, as opposed to the 75 per cent that they pay now." Many dentists were already striking adult NHS patients off their lists, he said.

Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, accused the government of creating a crisis that risked the future of the NHS dental service. If it was not saved, no part of the NHS would be safe, he said.

It had been a long wait, but from the first ball as Gower came in to a thunderous ovation, it was almost as if he had never been away. It was a typical Gower innings, with an element of good fortune sprinkled among some vintage strokes.

Boycott, who was watching, declared: "I am very pleased for him." Buzzsaw of the glove was taken off Gower's achievement in the closing minutes of the England innings when Aqlib was warned for intimidatory bowling after Malcolm was hit by a short ball.

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John Woodcock, page 34 Match report, page 36

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Record partnership: David Gower, right, with Geoffrey Boycott, whose scoring record he beat at Old Trafford yesterday

Gower hits his way to the record

BY PETER BALL

RETURNING to the England team after an absence of nearly two years, David Gower yesterday became the highest scoring batsman in English Test history. Needing 34 to overtake Geoffrey Boycott's record of 8,114, his 73 played an important part as England fought back to avoid the follow-on in the third Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford.

"I'm delighted to have achieved that target," Gower said afterwards. "It has been a long wait."

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Summit raises hopes of Gatt deal

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND IAN MURRAY IN MUNICH

AMERICA'S chief negotiator in the world trade talks was summoned to Munich last night as President Bush and Jacques Delors raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlocked Gatt negotiations.

Mr Bush and the European Commission president will meet this morning in an effort to close what is described as the narrowing gap between them. Hugo Faerman, the EC negotiator, is already in Munich for the Group of Seven nations' summit, and his American counterpart, Rufus Yerxa, was on his way last night.

The summit is not normally a negotiating meeting and Helmut Kohl of Germany, the host, had excluded Gatt

from the official programme, but a German spokesman admitted yesterday that the talks had forced themselves on to the agenda.

American and French officials said yesterday that a Sunday night meeting between Presidents Bush and Mitterrand had narrowed their differences on farm policy and a US official said: "We believe we are very close to an agreement." Germans too said that the EC and US were "not that far apart now".

British spokesmen, at John Major's request, would not disclose the contents of what was said to have been a "forceful" intervention by the prime minister on the Gatt issue during the summit talks. But Mr Major too,

making Gatt his "No 1 priority" at the summit, has requested a meeting with M Mitterrand. They will meet today.

At the traditional session between the Americans and the EC at the start of a new nation's presidency, held in Munich yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that Britain would make Gatt resolution a priority of the British presidency. James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said that he was committed to a solution and was willing to carry on substantive negotiations in Munich. He added: "This gives the heave to things which we needed."

The US believes that farm policy reforms in Europe

have offered new hope, but agricultural export subsidies remain the sticking point. The Americans are pressing for a 24 per cent cut over six years. Franz Andriessen, the EC trade commissioner, has offered a 20 per cent cut over Continued on page 20, col 2

Yellin appeal, page 12
Anastole Kalcitsky, page 16
Comment, page 25

Comrades split by court fight

IN WHAT is being billed the Russian Nuremberg, the banned Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which held sway over an empire for 70 years in the name of Marxism-Leninism, is today, perhaps unwisely, asking the Russian constitutional court to overturn its present illegal status. As a direct result it faces charges of misuse during its decades of absolute power. Both cases are being considered together.

The Nuremberg parallel is inexact: for the time being, at least, it is not individual party officials who are on trial but the party as such. It is accused of misusing public funds on a giant scale and of acting as a state within a state

The Soviet Communist party is today meeting its Nuremberg. Robert Seely reports from Moscow

until it was suspended after last August's abortive coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, then president of the Soviet Union.

But the underlying message is clear: once mighty men, including Mr Gorbachev, are being forced to face the consequences of their years of misuse. The party will be embodied in court by Vladimir Ivashko and Valentin Kuptsov, both Gorbachev associates.

Several thousand of the party's elderly malcontents met in Gorky Park yesterday to denounce today's court case, which is expected to uphold the party's banning by Russia. The rally was meant to be an embarrassment to President Yeltsin's regime. In the event it revealed the weakness of the divided Communist forces, some of whom have broken into splinter groups. The few thousand who turned out on a blustery Moscow day barely disturbed the passing traffic.

Today's court hearing was denounced by the protesters as anti-democratic, a rich Continued on page 20, col 5

Leading article, page 17

Garrick rejects the ladies by a robust four to one

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

NO FEMALES, please, we're the Garrick. That was the way members of London's most fashionable gentlemen's club voted last night when they rejected the very idea of women's membership. Nearly half the 950 members turned up for the annual general meeting, forcing the club to hire the Royal Theatre instead of using its own hallowed premises in the West End.

And by 363 to 94, with two abstentions, members voted down the motion "That the rules of the club be amended to include a new rule stating that in the rules words importing the masculine gender include the feminine".

Before the gentlemen made off to their male bastion after a debate lasting more than 90 minutes they also turned

down a motion for a postal ballot, which would have included the rest of the membership. Dinner had by that time begun to preoccupy the minds of the clubmen who include a galaxy of establishment figures from the theatre, the law and journalism. The "king of clubs", founded by the great actor-manager and friend of Dr Johnson, David Garrick, 161 years ago will remain a preserve of the self-admiring, chattering male classes, for no motion was put that the matter of female membership should be debated in the foreseeable future.

Anthony Lester, QC, who should have proposed the motion, was in Australia when the vital vote was taken and his place went to David Whitaker, the publisher, who said: "The Garrick has overcome its prejudice against Jewish members and its prejudice against

blacks and gay members. Three down and one to play." But his plea failed to persuade the gentlemen that they should give way to the ladies in this era of sexual equality.

Opposing the motion, Lord Chalfont said: "No great issue of principle is at stake. We are not like other clubs. We are a social club. No woman is being excluded from some great political network."

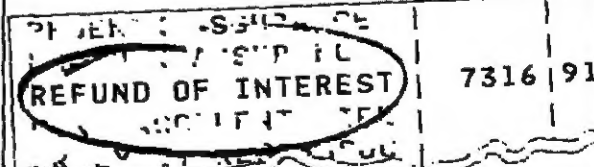
The establishment, whose membership fee is £650 per year, is able to remain a male bastion because it is a private club. Derek Nimmo, the actor, said that his profession was one of the first to introduce equality of the sexes but he added that he continued to enjoy the exclusive male company of the Garrick. "The only case for joining the Garrick is to get away from women."



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Truckers warn of rising violence as vehicles are attacked with bricks

British lorry drivers call for food aid

By DAVID YOUNG

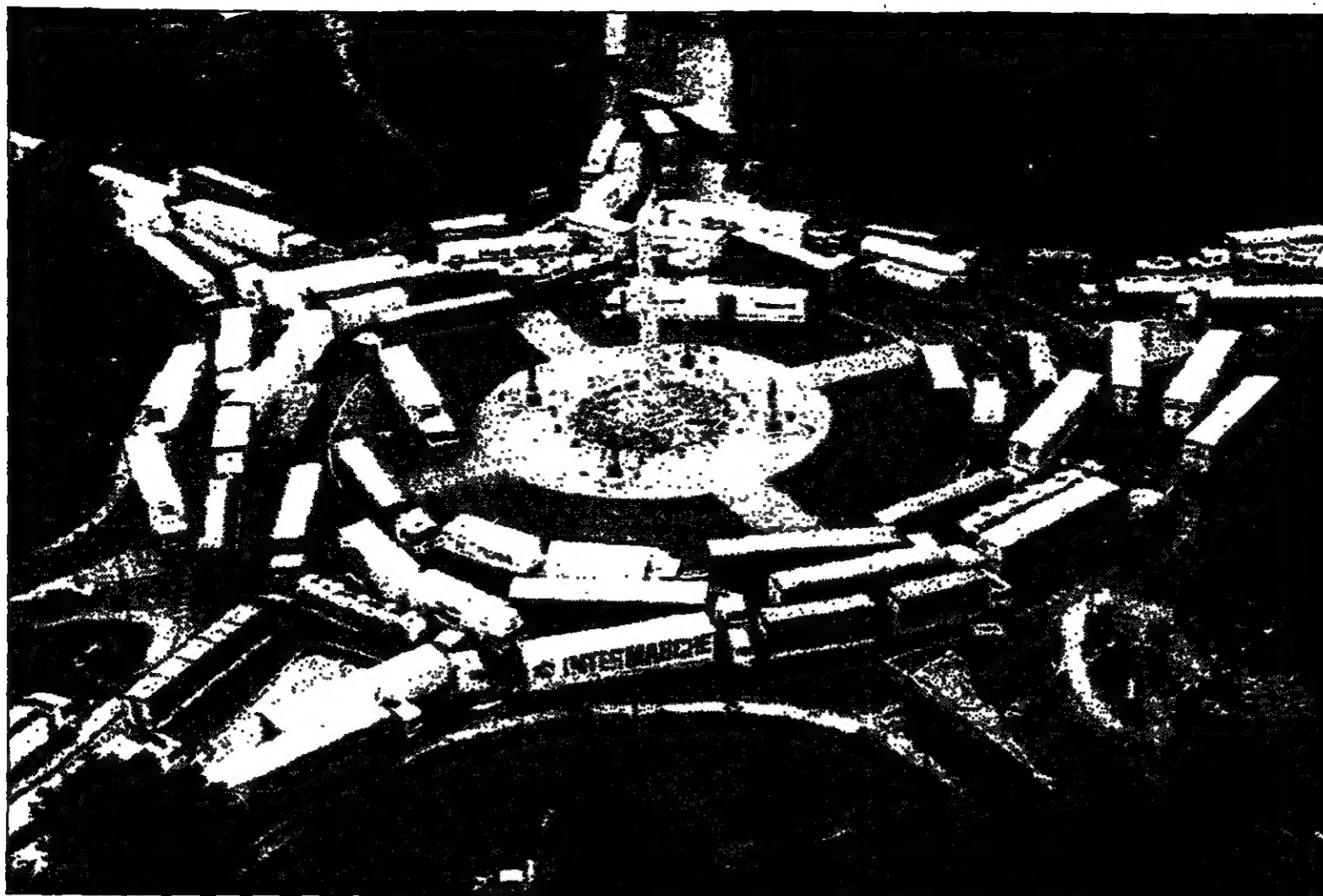
ROAD hauliers last night called on French authorities to organise "humanitarian relief" and compensation for stranded British drivers, who yesterday also reported attacks on them.

In a letter to the French Embassy, the Road Haulage Association accused Paris of taking little action to clear the roads and uphold the right to freedom of movement across borders enshrined in the Treaty of Rome. The association has also asked John MacGregor, the transport secretary, to press the French to organise "humanitarian relief" for stranded drivers who had run out of food and money.

One British trucker heading north to the Channel said that his brake pipes had been cut. Another said that angry French drivers had thrown bricks through his windscreen.

Sydney Balgarnie, Road Haulage Association spokesman, said that attacks on British drivers were still isolated but could escalate. The association said that the dispute had already caused severe cash-flow problems to many smaller operators. An association spokesman said: "Most bank managers are not going to turn round and say they are calling in overdrafts immediately, but it is very worrying for the people involved. If you are a smaller operator with cash-flow problems anyway, this is going to cause more difficulties because you stop earning. We are powerless."

Bryan Elise, transport manager of J.G. Osborne, of Rotham, has ten lorries worth £700,000 trapped on the Continent and 16 standing



Roads to nowhere: truck drivers block all accesses to the Carrefour de l'Obélisque outside Fontainebleau, south of Paris

Good humour evaporates after French loads slip through to UK

Lin Jenkins and Ray Clancy find there is no way out for British truckers brought to a standstill by French road blockades

FOR the fourth consecutive day Peter Scullion whined away the hours in a lorry park at Calais's ferry port, his wagon load of equipment for the off-shore oil industry no nearer to its destination than it had been on Thursday. French lorry drivers had blocked first the routes to Paris, and now those to Calais.

Some British drivers had abandoned their trailers in the car park and gone to find a route through. Each returned with the news that all roads out of Calais were impassable to British trucks.

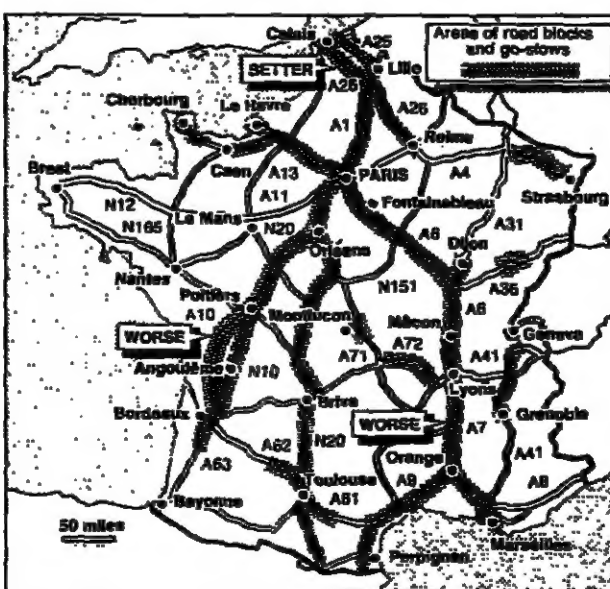
Tourist traffic, however, was getting through. At some road blocks around the town tourists were unhindered, while at others helpful officials provided details of alternative routes.

Mr Scullion, who makes regular trips to France from Aberdeen, said: "There are roads which are open, but in many cases we still can't reach our stopping-off point. I can't get to the airport in Paris before going on to Italy, so I'm stuck."

Les Morrison, an owner-driver contracted to P&O Ferries, said that finding a clear route out of Calais was only the start. "You never know where you might find them, or the farmers for that matter. The company says we are not to antagonise the situation and put the lorries at risk. The French have no qualms about putting a torch to the lorry or smashing it up and you in the process."

He said that P&O Ferries had just taken the decision to recall its drivers to Dover. His load of vacuum cleaners would remain at Calais while he and 13 other drivers returned with their cabs.

The 70 or so drivers stranded in the port were for the most part good humoured, but there was a growing feeling of anger at a few French companies that were beating the blockade and carrying cargo to and from England.



Italian strikes halt planes and trains

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

STRIKES disrupted air and rail traffic in Italy yesterday and its lorry drivers again threatened to copy protests by French counterparts.

Rome air traffic controller staged a seven-hour stoppage that caused delays on most flights in and out of the capital. An Alitalia official said flights were delayed for an average of 30 minutes.

A British Airways official in Rome said its flights in and out of the Italian capital were delayed up to one hour. Neither airline had to cancel any flights. The disruption was contained by a government work order that ensured 60 per cent of air traffic controllers were at their posts. "When the ministry intervenes services are assured," the Alitalia official said. "People might be turned off flying when they hear about the strikes but operations get along more or less as normal." Air traffic controllers at Genga also

were on strike yesterday. The railway system came to a halt for six hours during a strike to protest at expected pay-offs before possible privatisation. Union officials said most railway workers adhered to the strike call.

The Italian lorry drivers union said its members would follow the French example if the government did not reconsider a ban on lorries using main roads at weekends during July when millions of Italians drive for long summer holidays.

"If negotiations are not reopened immediately, Italian lorry drivers also will begin shutting down services," the statement said. It expressed solidarity with the French truckers whose action was "more than justified".

Another air controller strike lasting six hours will be staged at Naples airport today. Another nationwide seven-hour strike by controllers is due tomorrow and

another by Rome controllers tomorrow evening. On Thursday a strike is promised at Turin's airport with more disruptions expected at Milan and Rome on Friday.

The Spanish agricultural, tourist and transport sectors said that they will demand compensation from the French government for losses incurred as a result of the strike and blockade by French truck drivers (Edward Owen writes from Madrid).

Spanish truck owners said that in the past insurance companies had dealt with claims because Spanish lorries had been burned by the French but the new situation was different. Spanish losses were estimated at £20 million so far, with almost half in agriculture.

Normally 250 juggernauts a day take fresh fruit and vegetables from Spain to Europe but now growers are unable to harvest crops and their quality is not improv-

"I have enough diesel to keep the refrigeration system going for another three days. After that I just don't know," he said.

Occasionally he looked around in despair. Unable to speak French, he has been communicating in sign language since becoming trapped on Sunday in one of the biggest blockades of the French road system. Surrounded on all sides by French lorries, he has no chance of moving. "There is really nothing that I can do. I must admit that the French drivers have been great. They have taken me out to dinner and I'm sure that if I did run out of diesel they would sort something out," he added.

He became a victim when he tried to avoid the blockades by crossing from Poole to Cherbourg on Saturday, hoping to have an easy drive through the Norman countryside to deliver his load in Paris. "I wish I had gone to Dover now. Other lads did that and they got through," he said.

He has been to see the local police. They offered him a shower and breakfast but no way out of his predicament. He has found the boredom hard to bear but still has sympathy for the French drivers. He believes that the new points system is harsh.

The lorry drivers who have blocked every exit and entrance to the town are enjoying the party atmosphere. They have bought whistles and are happily directing the traffic around the blockades and giving directions to lost tourists. But they are determined not to let any lorries through. "Last night a French lorry tried to move and things got a bit militant," Mr Thacker said.

The French drivers are quite simply determined to stay and by all appearances are enjoying the limelight. Asked how long the blockades will last they shrug their shoulders, but the answer seems to be as long as it takes.

On the Costa Brava, officials estimate that tourism is between 20 and 50 per cent down with 4,000 tourists with reservations trapped in France or unable to leave their departure points. Car factories in Spain have had to slow production and parts are being flown in by transporter aircraft.

José Borrell, Spanish transport minister, has expressed a fear that the strike could affect the Olympic games which open in Barcelona in three weeks.

Five hundred Spanish trucks packed with rotting produce are trapped in France.

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CORRECTION

The three men slightly injured during a Civil War re-enactment in Hull were participants and not spectators, as incorrectly reported on June 25.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BAT chief to lead police pay review

Sir Patrick Sheehy, who earns £638,000 a year as chairman of BAT Industries, is to lead a radical Home Office enquiry on the future pattern of police pay and management.

Announcing the composition of the enquiry yesterday, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said police pay and rewards for skills and ability could be entering a new era. The blanket annual pay award set up 13 years ago after a report by Lord Edmund-Davies was likely to change and this could put Mr Clarke at odds with the powerful traditionalist lobby within the police.

Mr Clarke confirmed that there were internal reviews under way on how the police were funded from central and local government and also their structure. Mr Clarke said the present pay system was inflexible and based on a single pay award each year. It was time to modernise the pay structure.

Sir Patrick, 62, will be joined by John Bullock, joint senior partner of Cooper Lybrand, the accountancy firm; Professor Colin Campbell, vice-chancellor of the University of Nottingham; Eric Caines, director of personnel in the NHS and author of the Fresh Start programme for the prison service, and Sir Paul Fox, former managing director of BBC TV.

Schools get bully guide

Guidelines pioneered in Scotland to prevent classroom and playground bullying are to be sent to every school in England. The information pack, prepared by the Scottish Council for Research in Education, offers governors and teachers guidance on strategies to prevent bullying, outlining different situations they might expect to confront. The education department has ordered 28,000 copies to be distributed to state and independent schools. The pack advises teachers to take all reports of bullying seriously but not to respond emotively; to encourage the bully to see the victim's point of view; and to punish offenders sensitively. Bullying groups, it says, should be broken up by confronting members individually and forcing each to face his or her responsibility.

Post Office under fire

The Post Office was yesterday criticised by the industry watchdog body for raising stamp prices while making large profits. The Post Office Users' National Council also condemned the rundown of rural offices, saying local people should be given more time to fight the closures. It said increases in stamp prices last September, up 2p and 1p to 24p and 18p, should have been deferred for months because of Royal Mail's £260m profits. Tom Corrigan, the chairman, noting that stamp prices had now been frozen until the end of the year, said it was "better late than never". He said it was "unreasonable" that mail users had to pay more to finance the "under achievement" of Parcelforce, the PO's parcels arm.

Ulster talks open

British and Irish ministers and the leaders of two of Northern Ireland's political parties set out their opening statements on the future of the province yesterday at the start of their talks in London. The first meeting between the leaders of all the constitutional parties and the two governments since partition was faster progress than expected, with both the Social and Democratic Labour party and the non-sectarian Alliance party making their presentations at Lancaster House. Today Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party and the Official Unionists, led by James Moynihan, will put their views. John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, issued a joint statement saying that the talks offered an historic opportunity for lasting political progress.

Tydfil bridge repair

A great iron bridge that symbolised the importance of Merthyr Tydfil as one of the powerhouses of the industrial revolution is to be rebuilt as a heritage and tourist feature. The bridge, designed by William George, the engineer in charge of the iron works in the town, was demolished almost 30 years ago although the cast iron sections were saved in the hope that one day it could be restored. Historians regard the bridge as second only in importance to the structure built across the Severn at Ironbridge, Shropshire. Built in 1799, the 70-tonne bridge stood for 160 years providing a link between the furnaces of the iron master and the main route to the docks at Cardiff. Civil leaders hope that the bridge will lure tourists to the town.

Ardiles took illegal pay

Oswaldo Ardiles, right, former manager of Swindon football club, admitted at Winchester Crown Court that he accepted an illegal cash payment from the club for winning a match in 1989. He shared £5,000 among players and staff, he told the trial of Lou Macari, his predecessor, Brian Hillier, former club chairman, and Vivien Farrar, his former accountant, who all deny fraud. The trial continues.



Sellafield criticised

An official report has criticised the handling of nuclear waste at British Nuclear Fuels' Sellafield plant. One silo is almost filled with old fuel cans from Britain's Magnox reactors, stored under water which have now corroded, according to the report by a committee appointed by the Health and Safety Commission. The danger is that hydrogen released by the corrosion may ignite, causing an accident that would release radioactivity. BNFL has yet to work out a way of removing the Magnox slurry from this silo. The report criticises BNFL's programme for disposing of material contaminated with plutonium. BNFL said that in the two years since the committee last visited Sellafield there had been some refurbishment and existing stocks of plutonium-contaminated material would be put into drums from 1995.

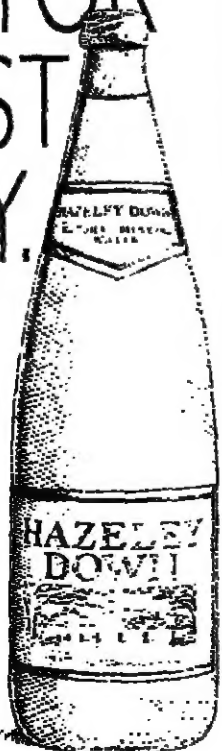
Defence chiefs named

A naval aviator and his Fleet Air Arm instructor were appointed the new chiefs of the Royal Navy and the RAF. Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst is the first naval aviator to become chief of naval staff and first sea lord for more than 30 years. He begins his appointment in February in succession to Admiral Sir Julian Oswald. His former instructor, the next chief of the air staff, is Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon. In November he will succeed Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding who is to become the next chief of the defence staff. The two newly promoted men first met as young aviators in the early 1960s when Sir Michael was carrying out a tour as a flying instructor with the Fleet Air Arm before embarking on a career as a fighter pilot.

Suspect rifle found

Police have recovered a high-powered rifle while investigating the suspected IRA murder of Glenn Goodman, 37, a special constable who was shot after he and PC Sandy Kelly, 32, stopped a car on the A64 near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. The weapon was found during a search of the area near Burton Salmon where the gunman's burnt-out car was found. The search will continue in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, where two Irishmen have been arrested.

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سلاسل

Crash victim wins £1.4m damages

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG violinist whose career was destroyed when she suffered brain injuries in a road crash received £1.4 million agreed damages at the High Court yesterday.

The award could amount to £20 million in investment income if she lives into her seventies.

Rosie Johnson, who is 27 tomorrow, was in court to hear Mr Justice Judge say: "She is a remarkable person and tribute should be paid to her for her courage and great cheerfulness in the face of almost overwhelming adversity."

Miss Johnson, who lives with carers in Hounslow, west London, near her adoptive parents, Ian and Mary Johnson, was fourth violin with the Welsh National Opera Orchestra before the accident in August 1985.

She was on her way to a recording session when the car in which she was a passenger pulled out to pass a line of traffic just before a

blind bend on the A5 at Llangollen, Clwyd, hitting a lorry head on. Damages and costs were awarded against the car driver, Daniel Lyness, of Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, who admitted liability.

The bulk of the award, £1 million, will be invested under a "structured settlement", the increasingly popular alternative to a lump-sum award, which provides inflation-proof tax-free income from annuities for the rest of life.

Miss Johnson was in a waking coma for more than seven months after the accident. She was at great risk of death when she was admitted to the brain injuries unit of the Royal Hospital and Home at Putney, southwest London.

Hugh Bennett, QC, her counsel, said yesterday the hospital's skill and the love and care of her parents had achieved great marvels. Rosie regained consciousness and was now aware of her predicament. She could



Helping hands: Rosie Johnson with her adoptive parents Ian and Mary. The judge praised their support

remember her life before the accident. She was only able to walk slowly and for short distances. Her communication was severely restricted, but she seemed to understand conversations. She still enjoyed listening to classical music.

The tragedy has been the

second faced by Rosie's father Ian, 56, who has taken early retirement from the Inland Revenue, and her mother Mary, 57, a laboratory technician. A son whom they adopted with Rosie died of cancer in his teens. Mr Bennett said: "Fate has been unkind to them, but they are

brave, resilient and truly devoted parents." The judge said: "The victim is a lovely young woman with the personality and character to lead a full and happy life in which she would have brought joy to countless people through her music."

The burden now falls on her parents. They have already had their full share of sadness, but disaster, as so often happens, inspires remarkable human qualities. You don't have to read much about this case to be aware of their unstinting, unselfish love, devotion, patience and fortitude."

Husband's lover 'kept diary of hate'

By ROSIE YOUNG

A JURY at the Old Bailey yesterday heard extracts from a secret diary which were claimed to reveal the depths of hatred a woman harboured for her lover's wife, whom she is accused of stabbing to death.

Michelle Taylor is said to have given her lover, John Shaughnessy, a lift home before he discovered the body of his wife, Alison, whom she is accused of murdering only hours before.

John Nutting, for the prosecution, said that Miss Taylor's diaries for October and November 1990 demonstrated the "unmistaking feelings" Miss Taylor held toward Alison Shaughnessy, a bank clerk.

Mr Nutting said that the diary revealed an obsession with Mr Shaughnessy and suppressed jealousy towards his wife. She had written: "I hate Alison, the unwashed bitch. My dream solution would be for Alison to disappear as if she never existed and then maybe I could give everything I wanted to the man I love." On October 29 she wrote: "We then made love. He always rushes off after though, always."

Mr Nutting said that Miss Taylor's affair with Mr Shaughnessy, with whom she worked at the Churchill clinic in Lambeth, south London, had begun before his marriage and continued. After Mr Shaughnessy had told her he would never leave his wife Miss Taylor had hatched a plot with her sister Lisa, 18, to kill Mrs Shaughnessy.

They stabbed her to death at her flat in Battersea, southwest London, in June last year, Mr Nutting said. A post-mortem showed she had been stabbed 54 times. After the murder the sisters returned to the clinic and Miss Taylor gave Mr Shaughnessy a lift home.

Miss Taylor, 21, and her sister, of Forest Hill, southeast London, deny murder. The case continues today.

The case continues today.

'Hellfire' preacher resigns

THE Rev Alex Buchan, the Church of Scotland minister whose "hellfire" preaching had split the congregation on Sunday, Orkney, resigned yesterday saying that he could no longer stand up to the "injustice and pressure".

Since he arrived last year, six elders had started holding their own services, saying that Mr Buchan's "nineteenth century evangelical style" was unacceptable.

Mr Buchan said: "I have a happy congregation of nearly 30 who are very sad. Many were in tears when I was forced to tell them that I would be resigning."

Mr Buchan said: "I have a happy congregation of nearly 30 who are very sad. Many were in tears when I was forced to tell them that I would be resigning."

The High Court yesterday refused to order blood tests to establish who is the father of an eight-month-old girl. Judge Callman ruled that DNA "fingerprinting" which might show she was illegitimate would not be in her interests. A court order had been sought by a man who had an affair with the girl's mother. He believed the child could be his but the mother and her husband were satisfied it was theirs.

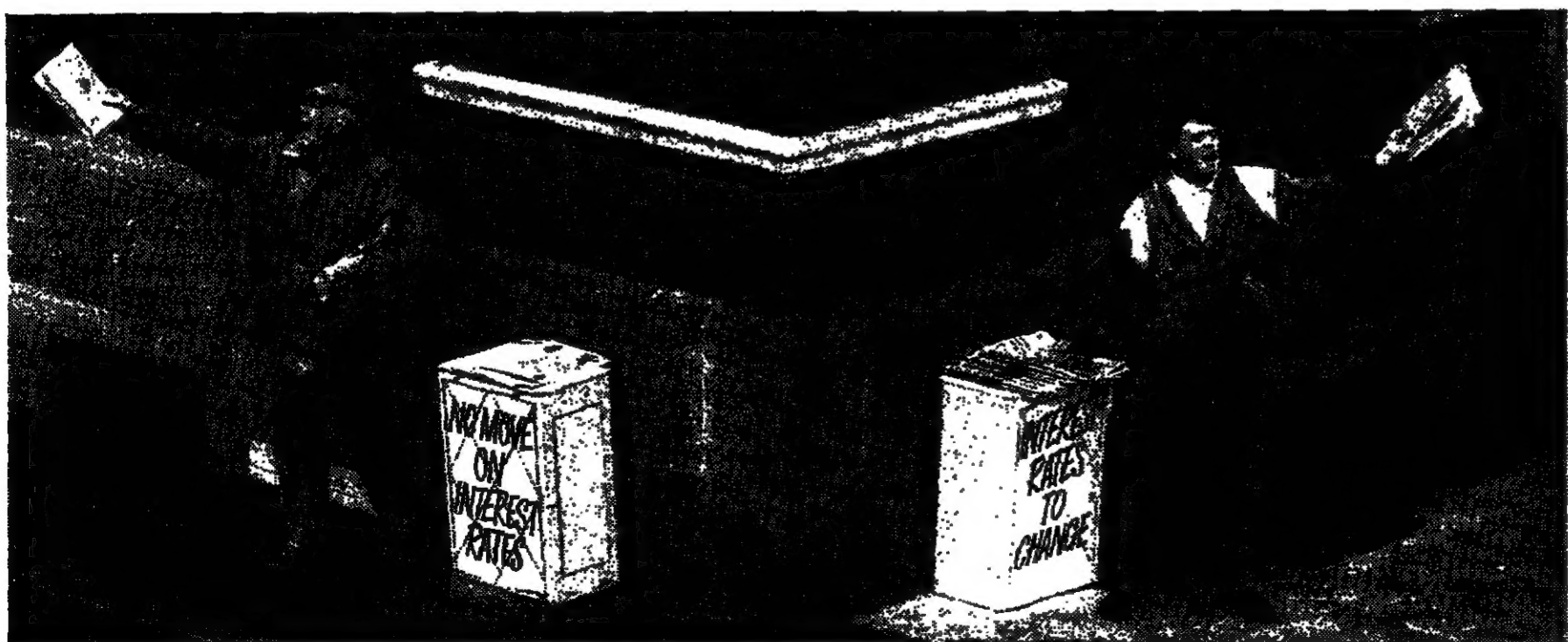
Officer hurt

A policeman was found unconscious next to his car at Haslingden, Lancashire, early yesterday after being beaten by two men armed with a crowbar and a knife. Sergeant David Calderbank, 38, is thought to have stopped a red Ford Escort van. He called on his radio for help and put up a struggle. Police seek two men in their twenties, one white with a ponytail and the other of mixed race.

Builder fined

A builder was fined £30,000 at St Albans Crown Court after an employee was buried alive when a trench collapsed during golf course contract work on Lord Brickett's Hertfordshire estate. Lionel Whitnell, 36, trading as Whitnell Plant, of Colchester, Essex, admitted four safety offences.

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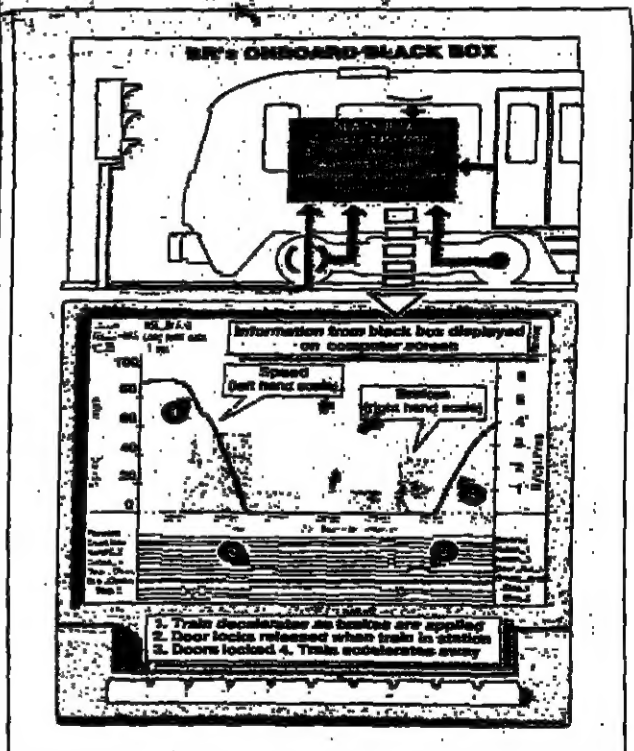
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Trains fitted with black-box recorder

RAIL engineers have almost completed the first phase of a multi-million pound programme to install "black box" data recorders on Network SouthEast commuter trains as part of a new programme of passenger safety.

Within a few months all trains on the network's Thameslink, Stansted Express, Euston-Northampton, Liverpool Street-outer suburban, Waterloo, Bournemouth and Weymouth, and South London-inner suburban services, will be equipped with black boxes to monitor and record all essential train functions, at a cost of about £3.5 million.

The new technology, first developed in Britain by Secheron Haster, a Swiss company specialising in railway measuring equipment, collects data from 32 train functions, including acceleration and speed, brake applications, track warning signals, door operations and the emergency handle.

The primary function of black box information will be in accident enquiries to help rail officials identify what or who was responsible. The information can also be used to monitor a driver's performance, enabling the technology to double up as driver training aids. Data recorders also enable maintenance staff to pinpoint faults rapidly, reducing the time that trains are out of service for repairs.

Although the introduction

of black box technology is widely associated with one of the recommendations made by the Hadden report into the Clapham disaster in 1988, Network SouthEast had decided to install the devices into new trains months before the accident, after a series of experiments with a pilot system since 1984.

It could be many years before every train is fitted with the technology. Once Parizzi, the Italian electronics company, has completed the contract to fit the devices to the new Networker trains for the Chiltern, Thames, and South Eastern lines in a few years, black box installation is likely to slow down.

Network SouthEast staff say there are 330 sliding door carriages built in the 1970s and 1980s which will have to be fitted with black boxes. There are a further 600 carriages used on London, Tilbury and Southend, Sussex coast, Kent coast and South Western services. Network SouthEast staff say that there is a commitment to fit black box technology to these trains, known as "long life" slam-door carriages.

The "short life" slam-door carriages used on Kent Link and Thames routes will not be fitted with the technology as they are to be replaced with new Networker trains from the autumn.

Outside the commuter network, a data recorder is being tested on InterCity 125s.

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Girl killed herself while taking A levels

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLGIRL with a place at Oxford University killed herself while taking her A levels because she felt life was not worth it, an inquest was told yesterday.

Catherine Clegg, 18, an academically gifted grammar school girl, took an overdose of painkillers hours before she was due to sit her second English exam.

She died in hospital 12 hours after she was found in bed unconscious by her mother, who had gone to her room to wish her good luck. Verity Clegg, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, discovered her daughter surrounded by empty pill packets and a note which said: "It was not worth while carrying on." Her husband Christopher, a scientist at the Porton Down research establishment, called an ambulance and Miss Clegg was taken to Salisbury General Infirmary, where she fell deeper into unconsciousness and died 12 later.

She was taking four A levels and had been offered a place at Oxford on condition that she achieved at least two E grades. Mrs Clegg, the deputy

manager of the local Citizens Advice Bureau, told an inquest at Salisbury: "My daughter was a normal, rather quiet, teenager who spent a great deal of time on her own, reading. She was extremely bright."

She told Bill Bache, the deputy coroner for Wiltshire, that Miss Clegg, a pupil at South Wiltshire Girls' grammar school, had shown no signs that she was depressed and no unusual behaviour.

Catherine Bolton, the dead girl's best friend, said in a statement: "She didn't seem any more worried about her exams than the rest of us. I was shocked when she died. I just could not believe it."

Recording a verdict of suicide, Mr Bache said: "She was a talented pupil who appeared to have everything to live for." He added that Miss Clegg had been fortunate in having the support of a caring, intelligent family where problems were openly discussed. Mr Bache said: "Her suicide note contained no criticism of her parents or family and blamed no one for the distress she was suffering

when she died. It made no specific reference to any particular problem."

Suicide is the third commonest cause of death in young people, after cancer and accidents. In 1990, 591 people under 25 killed themselves but only 79 were women. However, there has been a four-fold increase in the number of young women attempting suicide during the past decade.

The Samaritans, who have set up youth counselling services in north and south London, suggest that the pressure to succeed, particularly at a time when jobs are scarce, has become greater.

The charity Kidscape said that it received more and more letters from young people discussing suicide. They mentioned the ozone layer, animal cruelty, Aids, drugs, and exams, said Michele Elliott, the director. She said that there were new pressures facing women. "The rules used to be quite simple," she said. "They grew up, got a job, married and took care of their family. Now it is not so simple."



Lydia Gladwin: law surrounding prostitution needs to be re-examined

Mothers' Union minority backs legal brothels

Women dedicated to promoting Christian family values have modified their stance on prostitution, reports Ruth Gledhill

A FIFTH of Mothers' Union members would be prepared to accept legalised brothels. A statement yesterday by the organisation, which promotes Christian family values, shows a move away from total opposition to the idea.

A survey of the membership, carried out in group discussions and debates, found that more than two thirds were against legalisation, but about a fifth would support legal brothels with certain conditions.

The organisation's social committee considered reports from representatives of 20,000 branches in the UK and Ireland. About 3,000 members took part in discussions which led to a vote by the committee in May.

Of the 59 committee members, 40 were against legalisation, 13 were in favour and the remainder were undecided. Of those against legalisation, 23 voted against but "with reservations". Only 17 of the 59 were firmly opposed to legalised brothels and six were undecided.

The statement will be submitted to the government should a bill on prostitution be brought forward.

The Mothers' Union, an Anglican organisation whose stated purpose is "to be concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life", and which has 200,000 members in the UK and Ireland, urged churches and the state to address the issue of prostitution.

Lydia Gladwin, vice-chairman of the committee and a social worker, said: "These proposals are for a rethink on prostitution. We would like to see some research conducted. The law surrounding prostitution is in need of re-examination."

Lynette Paul, the committee chairman, who with Mrs Gladwin announced the statement at the Mothers' Union headquarters in London yesterday, said one step forward would be to give prostitutes suspended fines.

Many women were forced back on the streets to pay their court fines, she said. Suspending the fines for several years allowed them to break free from this lifestyle. Another proposal could be licensed houses run by prostitutes, without recourse to a pimp or madame.

Some members of the union favour decriminalisation of brothels, crawling and soliciting. Regarding the demand for services offered by prostitutes, Mrs Paul said that having lived in Balham, south London, she could think of no way of preventing men from seeking them out.

"In Balham, we had to escort even the Guides in their uniforms to and from their meetings because they were being pestered. Mothers collecting their children from school were stopped by cars in the street."

The union emphasised the link between prostitution and marriage breakdown, poverty, drug dependency, homelessness, unemployment and lack of caring.

The statement is the first issued by the union since 1983, when it endorsed the warning that the "nest of prostitutes" should remain illegal.

In its statement yesterday, the union said: "The majority of members taking part in the debate opposed the legalisation of brothels. However, there has been a noticeable movement away from total opposition."

"There was a clear recognition of the difficulty of producing effective, enforceable legislation which would strike a balance between the right and liberties of and the protection of the prostitute, the client and the local community."

Nina Lopez-Jones, of the English Collective of Prostitutes, said that it was pleased that the Mothers' Union took poverty and unemployment into account, but added: "Legalisation would lead to sex ghettos and an assembly line of sex with high taxes and few benefits for the women."

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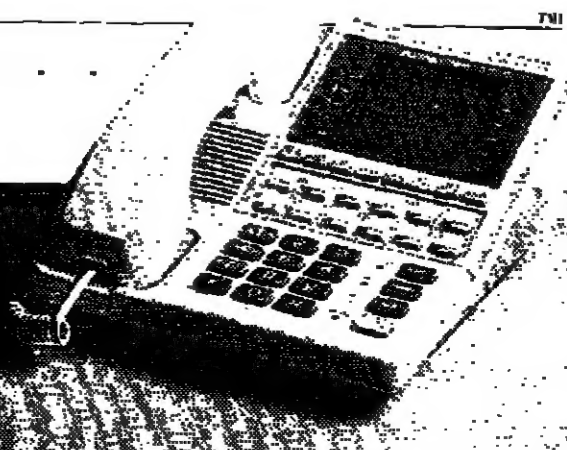
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Farmers accused of whingeing

By MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

REFORM of the European Community's common agricultural policy (CAP) will be an ecological disaster unless the government spends more on countryside protection, farmers and environmental groups said yesterday at agriculture's premier event.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, paying his traditional opening-day visit to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, accused his critics of premature whingeing and said he was fighting to put environmental protection at the heart of agricultural policy.

More muted criticism of the CAP reforms came from a less expected quarter when Sir Leon Brittan, a former Tory cabinet minister now serving as vice-president of the European Commission, questioned the wisdom of paying farmers to grow nothing.

"Have we really removed the incentive to produce as much as possible? And will it seem wise and acceptable to rely on ever-increasing set-aside to achieve our objectives? Have we targeted the policy sufficiently to achieve the environmental objectives which have increasingly become the common concern of farmers and the population at large?"

The centrepiece of the reforms is a 29 per cent cut in cereal support prices with compensation for farmers who agree to leave 15 per cent of their arable land fallow. This is expected to lead to British farmers taking 1.5 million acres, an area slightly larger than Devon, out of crop production.

Patrick Holden, director of British Organic Farmers, said set-aside would be "an environmental disaster of catastrophic proportions, casting a blight on the entire landscape of Europe."

Mr Gummer said that during Britain's six-month EC presidency, he would press for minimum environmental standards.

Ban sought on sample sachets

Free samples of detergents, shampoo and shaving foam pushed through letter boxes are a hazard to children and pets, and should be banned, trading standards officers say. Many of the sachets contain chemicals that would cause sickness if swallowed.

Officers in London have had complaints from residents and are concerned that the sachets are not legally required to be in child-proof containers.

The Association of London Authorities wants the samples restricted to personal delivery. "It is important that people have control over what comes unsolicited through their front door," a spokesman said.

Charity check

The Scottish Charities Office has set up a unit to investigate allegations of mismanagement and misconduct by charities. Any organisation calling itself a charity without Inland Revenue approval will face prosecution.

Two detained

Two men have been detained by police investigating the murder of Ian Foster, 26, a security guard shot in a payroll robbery in Farnworth, Greater Manchester, on Thursday.

65-mile chase

Two men and a youth aged 16 were arrested near Birmingham after being chased by police for 65 miles. The chase began after a van was driven away from a club in Castle Gresley, Derbyshire.

Air ticket

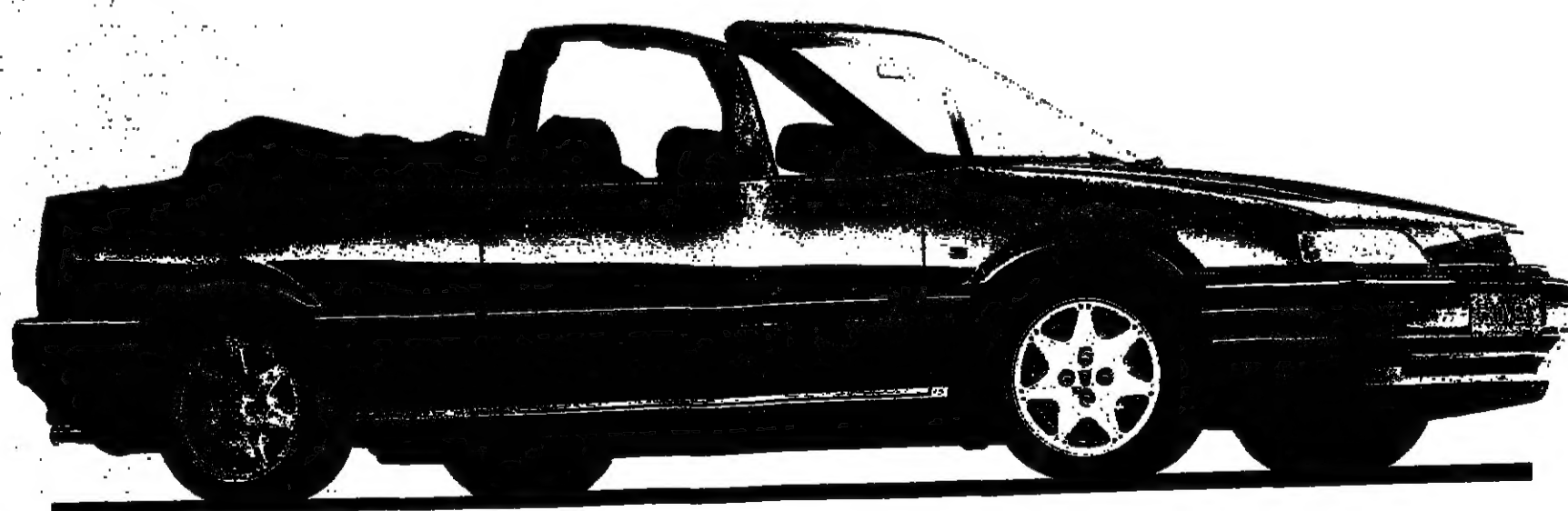
Kevin Johnson, of Southampton, was given a parking ticket after high winds forced him to land his hot-air balloon in the city centre.

Grubs up

Scouts on a survival training course at Baldon Moor, West Yorkshire, this weekend will have to eat worm omelettes and honey-coated locusts.



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TV dispute could take top shows off screen

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE between independent television and Thames Television could lead to popular programmes such as *Coronation Street* being taken off the screens in the Thames area this autumn.

Thames, the sole serious bidder for the Channel 5 licence today, has threatened to replace networked favourites with its own programmes unless the television companies agree to buy *The Bill* and other top-rated Thames programmes for showing next year.

Independent television wants *The Bill* only if Thames relinquishes for ten years its right to broadcast repeats of previous episodes of the police series on any commercial channel, including Channel 5 or UK Gold, the new satellite entertainment channel Thames is launching with the BBC this autumn.

But Thames, which becomes an independent producer when its network licence ends on December 31, says independent television's demand is unreasonable. Thames's involvement in both UK Gold and today's Channel 5 bid depends on its ability to provide hit programmes from its library as well as repeats of new programmes it has sold as an independent producer to independent television, the BBC or Channel 4.

An independent television executive said: "Why should we nurture an appetite for *The Bill* only for that to be taken advantage of on another channel? *The Bill* is not valuable enough to us unless the repeat rights are seen up."

If independent television does not back down today, Thames will drop all network programmes to make way for a huge backlog of first-run television films and its own shows such as *Minder*, *Wish You Were Here* and *This Is Your Life*, which have already begun production on the assumption that independent television would want them

for next year's schedule.

Viewers in London would miss all other independent television programmes except *News At Ten*, which is negotiated by ITN separately, while Thames would maximise its advertising revenue. The move could also damage Carlton Television, which takes over from Thames in January.

But the Independent Television Commission would be powerless to force Thames to broadcast the network schedule. Thames's only obligation is to transmit local and national news and two hours of current affairs each week.

Thames, which is restricted to 15 per cent shareholdings in Channel 5 and UK Gold under rules governing independent producers, is also considering dropping out of independent production altogether if its programme supply negotiations with independent television fail. This would mean it could take larger stakes, or even control, of these and other channels.

But that plan is not without its risks. Growing doubt about the financial backing of Channel 5 Holdings, the Thames-led consortium which will today emerge as the only mainstream bidder for the new franchise, decreases the likelihood that the Independent Television Commission will award the licence at all.

Channel 5 Holdings, which is expected to submit a minimum bid of just £1,000 a year, is not fully financed. Two of its key shareholders — Sony Pictures, the parent of the Hollywood studio Columbia, and Canwest, the Winnipeg-based international broadcaster — dropped out last week, while negotiations over the weekend failed to secure replacements. Only Thames and Moses Zimari, the Canadian entrepreneur, remain, which means that most of the consortium's equity will have to be raised in the 12 weeks after the award of the licence this autumn.

Cheshire Cat is found still grinning in Durham



Smilers: the Cheshire Cat with Alice, and its supposed inspiration with Jane Atkinson, owner of the rectory where Lewis Carroll lived

DEVOTEES of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and other works of the storyteller Lewis Carroll believe that they have found what inspired him to create that grinning literary curiosity, the Cheshire Cat.

It is a rough-hewn carving of a cat's head close to the altar of a church of which the author's father was once rector. Members of the Lewis Carroll Society made the discovery last weekend during a visit to St Peter's church in the village of Croft, near Darlington, co.

Where did he get that cat? Devotees of Lewis Carroll believe they have found his smirking feline, Paul Wilkinson reports

Durham. Parts of the building go back to the tenth century, and the eight-inch wide figure is thought to date from then.

It is sculpted in such a way that, if viewed from low down, such as the height of a small boy, all that can be seen is its wide mouth, seemingly grinning. The connection was made by

Joel Birenbaum, an Alice fan from Chicago, who was among the 35 members on the visit. He said: "From the front, it looks just like a cat, but if you go down on your knees and look up, you can see only the grin, and not the cat."

Years later, Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, was to

write of Alice seeing the cat appear and then disappear "quite slowly with the end of the tail and ending with the grin, which remained for some time after the rest of the head had gone".

Alice muses: "I have often seen a cat without a grin, but not a grin without a cat. It is the most curious thing I have seen in all my life."

Carroll came to the village rectory in 1843, aged 11, and went to school locally at Richmond before leaving home for Rugby and then Oxford. The rectory remained the family home until 1868. Items associated with the Wonderland story, including a white glove, crockery, a thimble and sea shells, have been found under the floorboards.

Edward Wakeling, the society's membership secretary, said that it was purely supposition that the church cat inspired Carroll. "But when you look up from the height of a small boy, all you can see in the grin, it's the Cheshire Cat."

Dodgson, a mathematics lecturer, created the Alice stories after a boat trip with the daughters of his friend H.G. Liddell, Lorina, Edith and Alice.

Canals may offer drought lifeline

Britain's historic waterways could take on a new role providing water to regions hit by shortages, John Young reports

BRITISH Waterways is to study the possibility of using the country's canal network to transport water to drought-hit areas.

David Ingman, British Waterways chairman, said yesterday that the 2,000 miles of eighteenth and nineteenth century canals offered an ideal means of tackling the water shortages in southern and eastern England.

Initial studies had shown that the cost of improving the existing network could be only a tenth of installing a national pipeline system. Operating costs would also be much lower.

Mr Ingman described other proposals, including desalination plants, importing water from abroad, and towing icebergs south, as either "zany" or too costly.

A feasibility study will examine the transportation of up to 80 million gallons of water a day from a point somewhere north of Stoke-on-Trent to Oxford and Milton Keynes by way of the Shropshire Union, Trent & Mersey, Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union canals. Of that up to 20 million gallons a day could be diverted via the river Trent and 40 million gallons supplied to East Anglia.

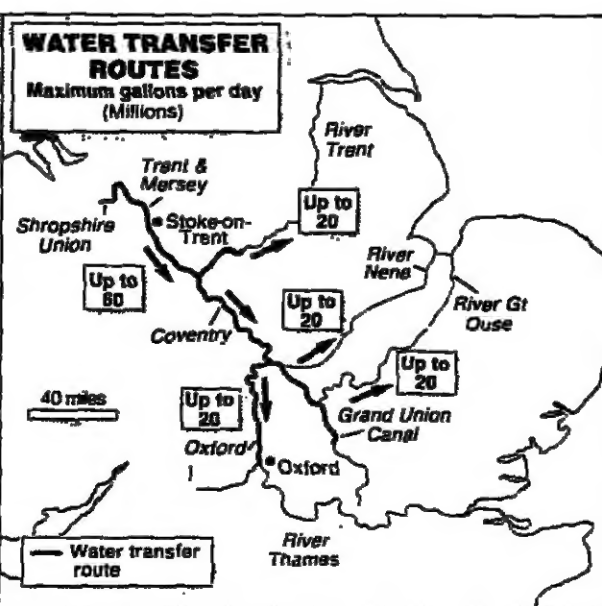
Mr Ingman said: "We could be up and running within five years. We are now in the process of seeking tenders from major consultancies."

"Leaving aside the drought, we are moving towards the time when demand exceeds local resources," he said. It would be necessary to use pipes to pump water uphill and to bypass locks and bridges, he said. Canals would need to be deepened but not widened.

The National Rivers Authority welcomed the study. A spokesman said: "It does not offer a quick-fix solution, although it could be implemented somewhat more quickly than some options we are considering."

Recent surveys showing public support for water metering gave a misleading impression, the National Consumer Council says in the latest issue of its magazine, *Consumer Voice*. Robin Simpson, the council's deputy director, writes that the surveys did not include information about the full cost to the consumer, or other relevant information such as leakage rates from water mains.

Letters, page 17



Nun lights up comet's tale

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CLAIMS by an unknown scientific society that Halley's comet has been knocked out of its 76-year orbit and is heading back to Earth were dismissed yesterday as the opening shots of the end-of-millennium season, during which historians have noted a rise in preoccupation, fortune telling and occultism.

The Scientific Forecasts Society, which has six members, has based its claims on the predictions of a Carmelite nun named Sister Marie Gabriel, who said in 1987 that the comet would suffer an explosion in 1991.

The society says that the explosion happened in February last year and that the comet is heading back to Earth, where it will disintegrate in a shower of "cosmic fireworks". The event will have "an almost spiritual impact... We may see some connection between its return and the Book of Revelation."

Zoe Richmond, the society's secretary, said yesterday.

Scientists do not expect the comet to return until 2061. Mark Bailey, an astronomer and senior lecturer in mathematics at Liverpool Polytechnic, who has studied the way comets have shaped history and cultures, said that the claim seemed to mark the start of millennial activity. "I guess these kinds of forecasts will become increasingly popular as we reach the dreaded date."

The society, based in Hampstead, northwest London, publicised its claims in a newspaper advertisement yesterday. Its works are supported by an unidentified philanthropist who is one of its members.

Miss Richmond insisted that it was serious about its claims. "We are waiting for the astronomers with the big telescopes to confirm in

eight to ten months' time that they have sighted the comet returning," she said. "Obviously, this will be very, very soon."

Peter Andrews, an authority on comets at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, said that he was aware of the society's claims and that it was true that a collision, or some other event, had happened in early 1991 which made the comet "seem to get brighter". However, he said that the comet, which is near Uranus and becoming invisible to telescopes, remained in "a perfectly well-defined orbit".

The society sees the end of Halley's comet as being beneficial to mankind. Unfortunately, Sister Marie Gabriel is also calculating that the event might also be linked with an asteroid impact, possibly of the kind that destroyed the dinosaurs.

Cancer victims rely on friends

BY NICHOLAS WATT

CANCER sufferers receive inadequate home care and many rely on the good nature of friends and relatives, according to a survey published yesterday. Carers spend an average of 12 hours a day helping cancer sufferers and a fifth devote 24 hours a day.

The survey of nearly 1,000 people was conducted by Mori for the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. The sample was broken down into three groups: cancer sufferers; their carers; and the friends, relatives and colleagues of sufferers.

Janet Doyle, regional nurse adviser for the East Anglia Health Region, said: "Too many people are falling through the net. There are good voluntary groups but this is patchy. The forthcoming Care in the Community Act needs to be responsive to people's needs and the act could reinforce the findings highlighted in the survey."

More than 60 per cent of carers become ill because of the enormous pressures. Francine Bates, of the Carers National Association, said: "The report confirms our view that carers need far more practical and emotional support... there is a level of exploitation but very few carers want to discharge their responsibilities."

Cancer touches almost every family in Britain. One in three will develop the disease at some time and the number of cases will double by 2010. Yet the survey found there is a still a taboo about cancer. One 51-year-old woman, suffering from breast cancer, said: "At the beginning it was very, very difficult. I just wanted him [her husband] to hold me and cuddle me but he treated me as if I were diseased."

However, the report did find that some sufferers have found their experience enriching. One 39-year-old married woman said: "I am more positive, anything I want to do, I do." The Macmillan Nurse Appeal aims to raise £20 million to increase the number of its nurses — specialists in cancer care — in hospitals.

Doctors agree to ration health care

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICE CORRESPONDENT

SOME patients will have to go without treatment because the NHS cannot meet all the demands made upon it, doctors agreed yesterday. They also said that rationing of health care was an "unfortunate fact of life".

But decisions on which treatment should be given priority and which restricted should be made openly and in consultation with the government and the public, doctors attending the British Medical Association's annual conference in Nottingham said.

Dr Peter Teebay, from Liverpool, said rationing had always been a feature of health care. "We can't stop it, the best we can do is ensure it is fair and open." But Dr Jeffrey Cundy warned: "Britain spends less on health care than other countries and if you vote for rationing you let the government off the hook."

The vote to accept rationing marks a significant break with the tradition that doctors should not count the cost of what they do because they have an ethical duty to provide the best care for each patient.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, chairman of council, denied that an acceptance of rationing would weaken demand for more NHS funds. "Both problems of under-funding and rationing have got to be dealt with," he said. Dr Lee-

Potter said the experiment in Oregon, USA, where the public were asked to rank 700 medical procedures in order of priority "pointed the way" towards a possible rationing mechanism. That exercise gave hip replacements a high priority but premature babies who could not be resuscitated came low on the list, he said.

Earlier, Dr Lee-Potter survived a vote of no-confidence in his personal leadership of the association. But reserve delegates narrowly voted to censure all the chief officers for failing to oppose the NHS reform with sufficient "vigour, and imagination".

Dr Richard Greenwood, said the whole council, of which he himself is a member, was to blame. "When the Titanic hit an iceberg it was, at least going somewhere. We are like the Bismarck after it was hit — going round in circles."

Dr John Maika, former chairman of council, attacked the leadership. "I believe the so-called reforms are the greatest threat to the NHS. The council has not pursued this effectively."

But Dr Lee-Potter said the votes demonstrated the "wounded psyche" of the profession. "There is a hard core of very battered people out there."

Dentists vote, page 1
Plea to dentists, page 10

HIV doctor urged to contact hospital

BY TIM JONES

HEALTH officials yesterday renewed their appeal for an eye surgeon reported to have operated on patients after contracting HIV to contact them. By yesterday afternoon, more than 600 people treated for eye disorders had rung telephone help lines to express their concern.

As officials tried to get in touch with the ophthalmic consultant, who is on holiday, Stephen Collinson, chief executive of Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, southeast London, said patients had not been exposed to any risk while being treated by the surgeon.

He said: "Most were treated by laser technology which involves no contact and even when physical contact was involved we are satisfied no risk was present."

Since the allegations were made, in a Sunday newspaper, the surgeon, Peter Curran, has not contacted the hospital. He began his holiday last Thursday, before the hospital learned of the newspaper allegations.

Bexley health authority has opened up telephone lines to help patients treated by the surgeon. Some of the callers have asked for tests to determine whether they are HIV positive while others will receive counselling.

THE TIMES

Lives Remembered

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Dentists urged to think again on NHS boycott

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

DENTISTS should think long and hard before they take action that could jeopardise a system that has brought unprecedented improvements in the quality of dental care, Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said yesterday after announcing a "fundamental review" into dentist remuneration.

Mrs Bottomley was replying to an emergency question in the Commons from Labour's shadow health secretary, Robin Cook, after dentists voted to partially withdraw from the NHS. Regretting the outcome of the dentists' ballot, Mrs Bottomley pledged that the government would take the necessary steps to safeguard NHS dental services, and said that family health service authorities had been reminded of their powers to employ salaried dentists if necessary.

During an angry clash with Mr Cook, Mrs Bottomley said that lower-paid workers in the health service would not have great confidence in Labour when they saw that it was supporting a professional group seeking a £5,000 increase above the 8.5 per cent pay rise it had been given.

Mr Cook had accused the government of creating a crisis by its policy of cutting fees to dentists while increasing charges to patients. He asked how Mrs Bottomley expected to get the agreement of dentists to a new contract if she proceeded with a cut in fees that broke the existing contract.

He said that there were only nine salaried dentists in England, outside London. How far did Mrs Bottomley think it was reasonable for patients to travel in search of a salaried dentist?

Mrs Bottomley said that detailed arrangements for the review would be announced shortly. They are expected later this week. The review will cover regional variations in remuneration.

She said: "We must find a system which is fair to dentists, fair to patients and fair to the NHS. Meanwhile, we are monitoring the situation through family health service authorities to ensure that

NHS dental services remain available."

Mrs Bottomley insisted: "There is a future in NHS dentistry. I believe the fundamental review... will make that future very clear."

The minister said there had been considerable improvements in dental care over recent years, adding: "I hope that the dentists will not jeopardise this progress."

She added: "I hope no patient is deterred from seeking dental care by this action. Patients currently rightly have high expectations and respect for their dentists. I hope they will have no cause to change that over the coming weeks." NHS dentistry had never been more effective and some 30 million patients were now signed up, she said.

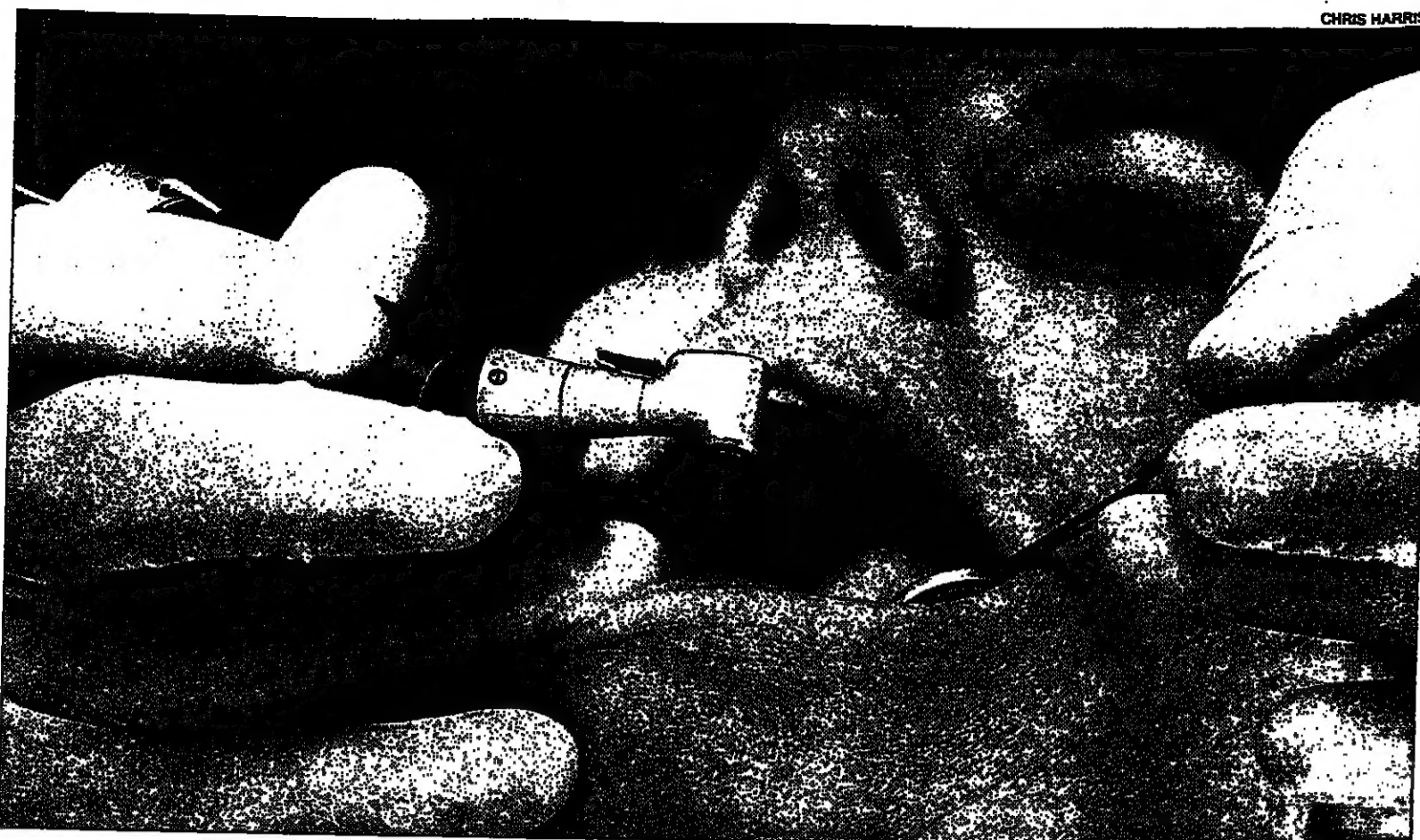
Last year 30 per cent of dentists earned more than £100,000, including their expenses, Mrs Bottomley said. About 40 dentists earned more than £200,000.

To have achieved the £35,800 a year recommended by the dentists' pay review body would have needed a fee cut of 23 per cent, Mrs Bottomley said. "We decided that a 7 per cent fee reduction... was a fair and reasonable way forward. This will give dentists an average income of £41,000 this year. Patients will find it surprising that a profession which was prepared to accept £35,815 is now threatening to take action when we intend to pay them well over £40,000 — substantially more than the review body intended."

She said the review offered a "far more constructive way forward than action to withdraw NHS services from NHS patients".

Roger Sims, Conservative MP for Chislehurst, said that it was irresponsible of dentists to take action at this stage when there was a real prospect of the problems relating to their remuneration being solved by the review.

Mrs Bottomley said she hoped dentists would think carefully before taking action at the moment when all were agreed that a better way of remunerating them had to be found. "This may be a system



This may hurt: the cost of dental treatment seems likely to rise after thousands of dentists voted to withdraw partially from the NHS

that has stood the test of time for many years. But the time has come when we have to have a system that inspires more confidence in the dentists and the NHS and is better for patients," she said.

Mr Cook said he agreed that, after the "chaos" created by the current contract, a new system of remuneration was urgently needed. The Conservatives had promised before the election not to privatise the NHS, but what other word described the situation when "more and more dental patients are being told they will have to go private", Mr Cook challenged ministers to "now admit that all those promises about privatising the NHS were as hollow as all those claims about economic recovery".

Mrs Bottomley said: "There are no cases known where it has not been possible to secure an NHS dentist."

Leading article, page 17

Dispute over payments ends in rift

For months dentists and the health department have been at loggerheads over fees, Alison Roberts writes

THE industrial action announced yesterday comes after months of fruitless negotiation between the health department and dentists' associations and ultimately stems from a dispute over the average dentist's income: a figure of which nobody can be sure.

In February the government proposed a 15.8 per cent cut in fees to prevent overspending of £15 million a month by the health department in subsidising NHS treatment. The department claimed that fees paid to the dentist for each course of treatment were too high.

After protests from dentists, plans to implement the cut were suspended until the election was over. On June 2 the proposals were watered down by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, who announced a cut of only 7 per cent.

Mrs Bottomley claimed that one in three dentists had a gross income of more than £100,000 last year, resulting in an average net income of £44,000. This figure is disputed by dentists who say that many take home less than £30,000 and that the cut in fees would reduce this by about £6,000.

The savings to be made by the health department have been estimated at £50 million. Dentists proposed that a similar amount could be recouped by suspending the provision of bridges and veneers for a year, but the government rejected this approach. The British Dental Association says that maintaining a government subsidy on such cosmetic work puts the rest of the service at risk.

Relations between the government and the profession deteriorated as dentists accused the health department of shabby negotiating tactics and of paying only lip service to the recommendations of an independent pricing committee. The BDA announced its withdrawal from talks on June 12.

Dentists are also taking issue with a second reform. The threshold of treatment costs above which dentists must seek prior approval from the Dental Practice Board before carrying out treatment will be lowered from £300 to £200. Dentists say this will delay operations. Mrs Bottomley has said that this claims it will only affect 3 per cent of treatment courses and will improve the department's monitoring of costs. She has maintained throughout that the changes strike the right balance between the needs of patients, dentists and other health service workers.

More than 10 per cent of dentists have already withdrawn from the NHS and set up private practices. Many of these are in the South-East and London where expenses are high.



Maxwell arrests attacked

The controversy surrounding the timing of the arrest of Kevin and Ian Maxwell was raised with Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, during questions.

Kevin Maxwell's wife, Pandora, has said in a letter to *The Times* that the arrest took place despite offers that he would present himself for interview at any time. John Morris, shadow attorney-general, asked whether it was necessary to carry out arrests in the early hours with journalists present.

Sir Nicholas said he shared the desire not to inflict "unnecessary humiliation". But he added: "These matters are operational matters for the police and the versatile critics might well ask themselves what they would be saying if a potential defendant in any circumstances, having been accorded any particular privilege, were then not able to be arrested."

Lords defeat

The government was defeated in the Lords on payments to people in bed-and-breakfast accommodation. Peers voted by 126 to 108 to give extra payments to people with no cooking facilities to compensate for the cost of eating out.

Aid for Africa

British aid to the drought-stricken countries of Africa totals £87.83 million, Mark Lennox-Boyd, a Foreign Office minister, said.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment, prime minister. Finance bill, remaining stages, first day. Lords (2.30): Civil Service (Management Functions) bill, committee.

It took courage to stake 2,400 million pounds in the space of a few years on achieving a leading role in the European commercial vehicle market—especially considering that it involved the total rethink of every aspect from basic research and vehicle design to manufacturing methods and logistics. It was a process which would change the very concept of the road transport vehicle.

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Ministers clash over fighter project cost

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN MUNICH

BRITAIN and Germany were deadlocked yesterday over the future of the £20 billion European Fighter Aircraft programme, with both sides offering compromises but in totally different directions.

Volker Rühe, the German defence minister, told Malcolm Rifkind, his British counterpart, during a meeting in London that he had no intention of ploughing money into the production phase of the EFA programme. He urged him to consider his proposal of building a new aircraft that would be cheaper and lighter and more suited to the changed security environment in Europe.

Mr Rifkind offered cost cuts in the EFA project but rejected the idea of "starting from scratch" with a new aircraft.

At a press conference, Mr Rifkind said abandoning

EFA would mean throwing £5 billion already spent on the development of the aircraft "down the drain". A new aircraft would take another five years to design.

He said Herr Rühe's approach was neither sound nor responsible and insisted that the four nations involved in the development programme, Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain, had a duty to their taxpayers to see that the £5 billion was not wasted.

The grim faces of British ministers and officials in London were matched in Munich by an equally sombre meeting between John Major and Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister, who discussed EFA before the start of the G7 summit.

Rather than coming out with a renewed commitment to the project, British officials emphasised that Mr Major and Signor Amato had

agreed on the urgent need to look for cost reductions. Although British sources said there was "no reference to pulling out", this was a clear indication of Italian alarm about the likely size of the bill for persevering with the project following Germany's withdrawal.

The Italians have just introduced tough fiscal measures to reduce the country's spiralling budget deficit and high borrowing, and Signor Amato told Mr Major that further moves to tackle Italy's economic problems would involve public spending cuts.

In London, Mr Rifkind said he had no reason to believe that Italy or Spain would withdraw from EFA. He and his Italian and Spanish counterparts would be meeting soon, he said, to decide what further cuts could be made, before the decision was taken on the production phase next year.

Most of the development work had covered the plane's airframe and engines, with seven prototypes and 40 engines in various stages of testing. Cost cuts could be made by reducing the number of missiles carried or dropping the in-flight refuelling capability, Mr Rifkind said.

However, Herr Rühe, at his rival press conference as the German ambassador's residence, said he was not interested in a slimmed-down EFA.

He wanted an "organically" different plane and asked the EFA partners to consider spending the rest of the development money, some 3 billion German marks (about £1 billion) on designing a new aircraft, based on different tactical requirements.

The German air force chiefs have called for Bonn to continue with EFA but Herr Rühe said: "The Luftwaffe don't make the decisions, the government does."

The German minister, who later faced highly critical questions from Conservative MPs, confirmed that Bonn would honour its obligations by paying out for the rest of the development programme.

Conservatives put Rühe on the rack

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs told the German defence minister last night of their disappointment at his country's decision to pull out of the European fighter aircraft project.

Volker Rühe, appearing before a special private session of the Tory backbench defence committee, was warned that the decision might impair Anglo-German relations. He went to the meeting at the Commons after his encounter with Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, and was given a polite but uncomfortable grilling by some 65 MPs with defence interests.

Emerging from the meeting, Jerry Wiggin, the former defence minister, accused Herr Rühe of giving an "apologia for Germany's disgraceful decision". He said it had been based on "total failure to perceive the difficult state of

the world and the need for Germany of all countries to be seen to make a major contribution to the defence of the Nato alliance".

Mr Wiggin said it was a "weak decision, a sorry day for Nato". Herr Rühe, he said, had been left in no doubt "that the Conservative party is 'gravely disappointed with the Germans'".

Another MP said: "The Germans see a collapsed Soviet Union. They say they see no need for a plane that will operate out-of-area. After the Gulf we say we need the best plane available."

According to MPs Herr Rühe was unresponsive to arguments about job losses. In reply to one he said that there were four million out of work in the eastern part of Germany, while the western part was not a significant factor.



Monkey business: the actress Carol Royle marches on Downing Street yesterday to demand a ban on the import of wild-caught primates for research. She joined MPs of all parties to present a report on the trade to the prime minister

UK will prosper through Europe says Heseltine

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL Heseltine, the president of the Board of Trade, yesterday staged a spirited defence of the government's counter-recessionary policy, confidently pointing to signs of recovery which would improve further through Britain's future within the EC.

Mr Heseltine, provoked by Labour accusations that the government made repeated false promises about the recession before the election, responded by predicting greater prosperity, which he said was already becoming evident.

During lively exchanges with Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, Mr Heseltine reinforced his department's commitment to a single European market. "It is here that some of the most exciting developments for our economy are taking place."

Opening an opposition debate on the recession in industry, Mr Brown embarked on a pointed attack on the government's "betrayed promises" on the recession and economic recovery.

The government election manifesto had been "built on a fiction and has been guilty of misleading the country," he said. "The truth is that the only recovery that the Conservative party was interested in was recovery of power."

Unemployment, disgracefully and tragically, continued to rise and the promised

recovery had not arrived despite all claims to the contrary. The government had no strategy for bringing the recession to an end and not one special initiative to boost investment or to boost trade.

To loud cheers from Labour backbenches, Mr Brown attacked Mr Heseltine's first 100 days as president of the Board of Trade. None of the governmental changes which Mr Heseltine had called for as a backbench MP had materialised now that he was in the government, leaving the new president to "ask not what you can do for the cabinet, ask what the cabinet can do to you".

Mr Heseltine now had "absolute power over a department which has become absolutely powerless". The tiger of the Conservative party was "once king of the jungle, now just the fireside rug", he said.

Mr Brown ridiculed the fact that Britain had taken over the EC presidency at a time when it was bottom of European economic and trade league tables. "The prime minister is sitting at the top of every table while Britain, as a result of his policies, sits at the bottom of every league."

Mr Heseltine accused Mr Brown of "naivety" in assessing Britain's economic problems while ignoring the world turnaround. The need was not to find ways of spending money, but to help the economy become more competitive. He accused Labour of resisting any moves to make the economy more competitive.

Increases in sales of commercial vehicles and cars signalled recovery, and foreign car companies were now examining British production to see how they could improve efficiency, Mr Heseltine said. Foreign business was investing nine times as much in Britain as it was in Germany.

Further evidence of Britain's importance within the EC was that two-thirds of British exports were now directed at EC countries.

Environment department chiefs look east

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard is considering basing himself, his ministers and their senior civil servants in Docklands as he studies options for the planned move from the environment department's headquarters in central London.

The department dis-

missed as "pure speculation" a report that the environment secretary has decided to make Canary Wharf or one of two other sites in East London the main office for ministers and senior officials.

Sources in the department, however, confirmed that this was one option under consideration as Mr Howard awaits reports

from independent accountants and estate agents. The sources said that ministers were examining the example of the Scottish and Welsh Offices, whose ministers have their private offices in Edinburgh and Cardiff and a skeleton staff in London, with some senior officials shuttling between the two centres. If this option is chosen, it

would mean ministers keeping on a Westminster office with a small number of support staff.

The environment department's Marsham Street headquarters are to be demolished and Mr Howard has said he will move around 2,000 of his officials to Docklands. Canary Wharf is a possible destination.



Yeltsin plea for G7 handout veils signs of resilient economy

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WHEN President Yeltsin addresses the G7 summit tomorrow, he is expected to appeal for a two-year moratorium on Russia's external debt because it cannot at present pay. "Russia has every intention of meeting its obligations," he said at the weekend. "At the moment, however, this is just not possible."

But things may not be as bad as they are painted. Four areas are most frequently cited as evidence of imminent economic disaster: the fall in production, the decline in foreign trade, the rise in inflation, and the shortage of

roubles. Yet in none of these areas are things quite what they seem.

According to government figures, production has fallen by 13.2 per cent over the first five months of the year compared with the same period last year, and the decline is expected to decrease towards the end of the year to just over 10 per cent. For an economy where heavy industry is in sharp decline, this is far from catastrophic and a long way from doomwatch forecasts of 30 per cent or more.

The fall in production may even be less than the 13 per cent announced. Now, for the

first time, factory directors have an interest in claiming that they are producing less than they are, so allowing some goods to be sold on the side while still providing evidence that massive financial help is needed.

A similar process can be observed in foreign trade. Official figures say imports declined over 1991 by 44 per cent and exports by 22 per cent. In the first three months of this year, foreign trade was reported to have come to a virtual standstill.

In fact, these figures are by no means as bad as they might be. The Soviet state was effectively bankrupt by the end of last year. Cutting imports far more than exports is exactly what needed to happen. That exports have now picked up after the chaotic stalemate of the Russian takeover at the turn of the year is a good sign.

Inflation, forecast by some to reach 1,000 per cent before the end of the year and by most to be already approaching hyperinflation, is another red herring. The figures for the inflation rate are usually based on consumer prices of retail goods. The comparisons are between last year, when most goods were officially sold at heavily subsidised state prices and this year, when most retail prices have been progressively freed.

There are also distortions in the figures for the money supply. A common view is that the current shortage of rouble notes is a result of galloping inflation coupled with a tight money supply policy. In one respect, this is true: the minting of roubles has lagged behind the translation of hidden state subsidies into retail prices, leaving an acute cash shortage.

That does not automatically mean, however, that the money supply has been curbed, and there is considerable evidence to the contrary. The banks of Russia and some other republics which still use the rouble have issued large rouble credits to cover increased wholesale prices and shore up heavy industry, and several republics have compounded the problem by issuing their own "roubles".

The Russian economy is certainly in deep trouble. But the ills that Russian officials like to present as evidence of the mismanagement of reforms are not what need to be cured. The real maladies derive from the inflationary palliatives, unjustified pay rises, and soaring credits that have been applied to an economy that requires a fundamental restructuring that has not even started.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Business comment, page 25

Fun, by order, reigns in Fortress Munich

Oom-pah jollity. Bavarian style, sweeps aside dissenting voices at the G7 summit, writes Michael Binyon

NEVER has a summit been organised with such efficient jollity: in Munich the beer and wine flow freely, flowers adorn every window sill, every hotel has been briefed on the facts and quirks of its distinguished guests. Never can there have been such security paranoia: the entire city centre is ringed off, police guard every 100 yards of the motorways, the local burghers have been advised to leave town, and any demonstrator so much as whistling at the approaching motorcade is pounced on by helmeted police in full riot gear and hauled away.

Munich is determined that not a whisper of protest from the anarchists said to be streaming into the city shall reach the ears of the world's leaders. Those foolish enough to start chanting on the Max-Joseph Platz were subjected to the heavy-handed attentions of police Valkyries — flaxen-haired maidens in leather jackets and visors, truncheons drawn and ready. Fanned behind barriers in a side street, they continued intoning defiance of Western capitalism: "International solidarity against centres of power! Hey, hey hey!" It sounds somewhat snappier in German.

One protester carried a placard he hoped President Bush would see: "1492-1992: I still don't like you." But even waving banners was risky. A Munich court recently ruled that these could be banned. Police have been raiding rehearsal sessions by the efficiently organised anarchists and confiscating baseball bats and other weapons.

All this was too much for one MP from Jena in former East Germany. "Is this the type of democracy we are defending in the world?" he asked the government spokesman indignantly. "I am reminded of the old times."

The leaders saw an altogether jollier side to the security forces, most of whom were dressed up in *lederhosen* and leathered hats and stood, knees gleaming in the sun, on the steps of the opera house playing national anthems interspersed with the kind of folksy oompah music that makes you instinctively reach for your frothing stein.

Prosperous Munich spared no expense to make its guests comfortable. Hotels have been gutted as though he were still in the White House, complete with his own kitchen, a library and a large corner bath.

Kichiji Miyazawa can enjoy Japanese food, green tea,



High security: a summit guard, with the cathedral towering above him, keeping watch in Munich yesterday

Japanese videos and comely Japanese-speaking telephone operators. Antique Venetian furniture has been hauled out of the storeroom to decorate the suite for Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister. President Mitterrand has laid down a "no alcohol" rule, and will take only French mineral water — flat and without ice — and displays of fruit in silver salvers.

John Major has been put, appropriately, in a hotel overlooking the English Garden — though the nude sunbathers have been removed. His suite has been tactfully decorated in Laura Ashley designs.

Helmut Kohl has billeted himself in the Vier Jahreszeiten hotel, where orders have gone to the kitchen to prepare his favourite dish: a concoction of cow's intestines called *Saumagen*.

The hosts have also put together the traditional programme for summit wives, intended to emphasise their feminine interest in good works and total lack of interest in politics. There are carriage rides to Neuschwanstein, the mad King

Ludwig's fantasy castle, a session of *Carmen* at the opera house, excursions to lakes and baroque churches. Unfortunately the timetable is more suited to heavy German tourists; and one local paper reported in banner headlines: "Summit stress for first ladies: wake-up call at 6.00".

The press has also been subject to relentless German hospitality: presentation hold-all bags that weigh over a stone with books on investment in eastern Germany and the collected communiqués of all 17 former

summits, beer, sausage and roast ox by the ton, noisy displays of folk dancing and briefings by the dozen.

But the fun is hardly spontaneous. "Fortress Munich", as the local papers are calling the city, can hardly wait for the guests and police to leave. Many of the green uniformed police, however, will be sorry to go: they have been drafted in from eastern Germany, and seem too dazed by window displays dripping with diamonds and furs to know an anarchist from a law-abiding citizen.

CIS agrees on force to keep peace

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

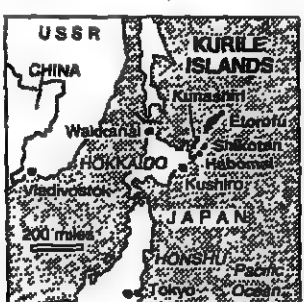
LEADERS of the Commonwealth of Independent States agreed at a summit yesterday to create a joint peacekeeping force to help quell ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union.

President Yeltsin told a news conference that the force would be sent first to Moldova, where hundreds have died in battles between Russian-speaking separatists and government forces.

"The foreign ministers and defence ministers will meet and work out mechanisms to create joint peacekeeping forces," Mr Yeltsin said after the one-day summit. He made clear the troops would be sent into Moldova only if the republic's parliament issued a formal appeal for help, but said that President Snegur had assured him that the parliament — which meets today — would do so.

President Akayev of Kirghizia, who chaired the summit, said the foreign and defence ministers would "work out principles and ways to neutralise conflicts which are flaring up" elsewhere in the 11-nation commonwealth. "This shows the commonwealth is not only still alive but has started to act effectively to solve the most vital questions facing [us]," he said.

Mr Yeltsin also said that other commonwealth leaders had authorised him to ask for several years' deferral of interest and principal repayments on the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union. He added that some participants in the commonwealth summit "thought that such debts should be forgiven altogether because we [the commonwealth states] had had little to do with that debt".



Tokyo links aid to isle handover

FROM IAN MURRAY IN MUNICH

BEFORE the G7 summit got under way, the Japanese explained why they would not be able to support the aid package for Russia, which Germany would like to see rubber-stamped at the meeting.

"It is all a question of justice, which every country values so much, and Japan is no exception," a foreign ministry official said. The "justice" involves Japan's northern territories, the four islands occupied and kept by Russia at the end of the second world war. There is still no peace treaty between the two countries in consequence. The official made clear that until this was signed there was no chance of his country contributing to, or supporting, an aid package for Russia.

He complained that with the collapse of the Iron Curtain, justice had been done in Europe to end the colonialism of Stalin but that nothing had been done to give similar justice to Japan. "Why do the same principles not apply?" he asked.

"We would like to welcome Russia to come out as a great constructive world power, playing a constructive role. But we have to have a normalised political relationship between our two nations."

Sniper learns to forget victims

JAVOR stroked the grey barrel of his Dragunov sniper rifle and admitted he could no longer remember how many men he had shot since the battle for Sarajevo began three months ago.

"When I wake up in the morning, I think I have had a bad dream. I can hardly believe what I am doing," said the tall and pale Muslim fighter, who before the war was a computer operator in the Bosnian capital. Javor put down his Soviet-made rifle carefully and displayed another trophy — a Skorpion machine pistol. "This weapon is ideal for close work. It will cut a man in half. I have seen it many times," he said.

Javor's unit is based at a battered, dingy hotel in old Sarajevo, overlooked by Serb positions on a hillside. The building, in a narrow alley near the site of the breadline mortar bombing which left 26 dead, is pockmarked with bullet holes.

Introducing a group of his comrades, he described how they had all become case-hardened to killing. "When I first got someone in my sights, I was trembling. We all went through that. I squeezed the trigger, and he went over. Not a chance of survival — a clear shot from 500 metres. After the first one, it just gets easier."

The sniper learnt the rudiments of his trade after taking up small-bore rifle shooting as a teenager. "I was a good shot as a boy, but hitting targets for a prize and killing men in war are two different skills."

As Serb mortars opened up on the hotel once more, Javor, apparently unconcerned by

Bill Frost in Sarajevo meets a Bosnian Muslim computer operator who has turned into a hardened gunman

the barrage, told how once he had killed a fellow Muslim by mistake. "We were deployed near the Jewish cemetery, close to enemy positions. Suddenly two men came running through the graveyard. I opened up and hit one."

The sniper later discovered that the man and his son were Muslim hostages who had been pushed into the line of fire by their captors. "It is a war crime even by the standards of this dirty battle, but they play Russian roulette every day here," Javor said.

At the sniper's commanding officer, lay back on a battered black plastic sofa and stretched out his wounded leg. "My men must be invisible. They move quietly

through the streets to tower blocks and other vantage points. Then they wait." He added: "Patience is everything for a sniper."

The hotel foyer suddenly filled with fighters from Dobrinja, a suburb close to the airport which has seen some of the fiercest fighting. Special forces troops swapped horror stories in the dining room before returning to the front line. Unshaven, cold-eyed and deathly pale, the militiamen fight, eat, sleep for a couple of hours, and then fight once more. Fallen comrades are replaced and soon forgotten in the heat of battle.

In the alley outside, fire from Serb positions echoed

off the high-sided buildings. Dashing and weaving as we made for cover, I tripped on debris in the road and fell, tearing a muscle in my right leg. A colleague helped me to safety as bullets hit the hotel front behind us. We hobbled back to the car as the attack intensified.

A Citroën van bearing Red Cross flags screamed by and came under fire at a deserted junction. Further down the road there was more sniping. We heard just hours later that Javor had been wounded; a bullet had smashed into his face, destroying much of his lower jaw.

Relief flights continued — there were 14 yesterday — but distribution of aid on the streets is painfully slow. Meanwhile, the people of Sarajevo huddle in dark basements with no water, no electricity for much of the time, and precious little food.

Belgrade seeks Helsinki reprieve

FROM OLLI KIVINEN IN HELSINKI

The Yugoslav government has continued its fight to avoid expulsion from the Helsinki process by requesting another 100 days to show that real change is taking place in Belgrade.

A letter from Milan Pantic, the new Yugoslav prime minister, caught Helsinki civil servants by surprise and their final draft of the document, which is to be adopted on Friday by the 51 nations of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, is not ready.

Yugoslav leaders said earlier that they would not attend the summit. John Kornblum, the American ambassador, said that the US delegation's policy was still to expel Yugoslavia. Darko Bekic, the Croatian ambassador, also rejected Belgrade's proposals. But the Russian delegation is still insisting that Yugoslavia must remain in the CSCE.

Mr Pantic's letter said: "I have just accepted the mandate to form a new government of Yugoslavia,

which I assure you will energetically pursue the course of peace in Bosnia and Croatia. I need your help, not another obstacle in my path before I have been given a chance to undertake this difficult mission."

He promised "to do everything in his power" to stop the fighting, and also said that within a week he would form a government of specialists to take power from the Serbian and Montenegrin governments and call new elections.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norwegians harpoon minke whale

Oslo: Norwegian whalers, preparing to resume commercial catches in 1993, said yesterday they had harpooned a female minke whale, their first whale in two years, under a government-sponsored research project.

"The whale died instantly when the harpoon grenade hit its head," said Gunnleif Olsen, captain of the Ann Brika, one of six whaling ships which set out from northern Norway on Friday at the start of a programme to catch 110 whales in 1992. (Reuters)

Pilots killed

Bucharest: Two Romanian air force pilots were killed when their Soviet-built MiG29 crashed on a training flight near Constanta, 160 miles east of here, the state Rompres news agency reported. (Reuters)

Vichy charges

Paris: René Bousquet and Maurice Papon, police officials under France's wartime Vichy regime, have been charged in connection with the deportation of Jews to Nazi death camps, the magazine *Le Point* said. (AP)

Finns come top

Wellington: Finnish children got the best marks in a 32-nation survey of reading skills, conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement. (AFP)

Debt-ridden farmers block roads in siege of Warsaw

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THOUSANDS of protesting Polish farmers, taking their cue from the French, yesterday marched on the capital and blocked the main east-west highway from Warsaw to Berlin.

Police have deployed water cannon and riot squads at all the main entrances to the capital and have threatened to use force if any of the main arteries are blocked. The Polish government — still led by the farmer-politician Waldemar Pawlak, despite a backroom manoeuvre to displace him — sees the protest as a test of strength. The authorities are determined to show that the months of political upheaval in Poland have not weakened the state.

The protests are led by a group called "Self-Defence", which represents farmers threatened with eviction for not paying off their debts. All farmers have to borrow money until the harvest is gathered and the crop sold. But to keep inflation down and honour its promises to the International Monetary Fund, the Polish authorities have been charging high interest rates. That has left some 10,000 farms close to bankruptcy and the bailiffs have been moving in.

Self-Defence has been organising flying squads of farmers — known as Peasants' Battalions after former anti-Nazi partisan units — to prevent bailiffs auctioning off farms. The agriculture ministry says Self-Defence is comprised mainly of inefficient



Suchocka: wants social welfare programme farmers and that many have been squandering their credits on luxury goods or on new cars

The farmers are now marching from five directions towards Warsaw, using long convoys of slow-moving tractors, lorries and combine harvesters. They threaten to snarl up the capital and force negotiations with the government or, if barred access to Warsaw, to block all roads to the city. The first blockade yesterday was in Olszanka, a village between Poznan and Warsaw and a key point on the main road to Germany. Tractors and container lorries have completely obstructed the road there and the farmers are said to be aggressive. Their banners call on workers, especially industrial lorry drivers, to join the protest. Police have been directing traffic down side roads.

The protest highlights one

of the chief problems facing the Polish government: how to ease monetary policy without producing hyperinflation. The eight Solidarity-rooted parties, who have been trying to put together an alternative to Mr Pawlak, have not been able to solve this riddle. All are committed to market reform but they disagree on essential details.

They do, however, agree that their candidate for prime minister is Hanna Suchocka, a 46-year-old constitutional lawyer. Although they were stampeded into the choice — President Walesa was threatening to name his own caretaker prime minister and cabinet — Mrs Suchocka has broad appeal.

She wants the abortion laws tightened up (a plus point for the clerical-nationalist parties), sympathises with market reform but is also keen on working out a social welfare programme. Unlike Mr Pawlak, she does not have to pander to a special interest group — the farmers — and she does have some Solidarity credentials.

President Walesa said yesterday that he would consider favourably Mrs Suchocka's candidacy if she presented a cabinet list quickly and a first extraordinary session of parliament gave its approval. The party balance of the cabinet is, however, still the major problem.

Police move in, page 1
French blockades, pages 2 and 3



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Britain and China clash over airport for Hong Kong

JOHN Major's envoy to Peking said yesterday that he would be leaving empty-handed after talks with Chinese officials on Hong Kong's new airport failed.

Asked whether he had achieved what he had come to Peking for, Sir John Coles, deputy under-secretary of state at the Foreign Office, said: "No, I would have to say that I did not." Sir John's mission was a last-ditch effort to defuse the dispute over the airport before the arrival in Hong Kong of the new governor, Chris Patten, on Thursday. With the failure of these talks, Mr Patten walks into a minefield of financial and political intrigue.

Sir John took an unusually

confrontational stand yesterday, accusing the Chinese side of raising "a large number of problems" at the talks. He said he had warned Chinese officials that, unless the financing of the airport was approved by the end of July, Peking would suffer the extra costs caused by delays in the long run. "Inevitably there will be a longer delay with increased costs and possibly increased burdens for the future government of the SAR [Special Administrative Region, Hong Kong's title after 1997, when Peking takes control]."

Analysts speculated that Sir John's deadline for Peking might be typical of a new, more uncompromising

A deadline set by London for Peking to approve a finance package may typify a tougher policy under Chris Patten, Catherine Sampson writes

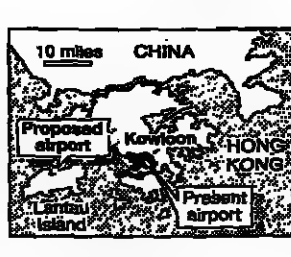
policy under Mr Patten. Sir John's visit was the result of an agreement reached in Brazil in June by Mr Major and Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, to hold high-level talks.

The \$1.5-billion-dollar airport project, which straddles 1997, has become the focus of mutual recriminations. China's go-ahead is needed in order to attract investors, but Peking accuses the British side of conspiring

to bleed the colony dry of funds before the takeover. In public, British officials attempt to reassure Peking of the fiscal health of Hong Kong. In private, however, the same officials accuse China of withholding its approval for the airport in order to force Britain to limit democracy in Hong Kong. In exchange for their go-ahead on the airport, Peking is believed to be seeking an assurance from Mr Patten

that members of the United Democrats of Hong Kong, who won a sweeping victory in the colony's first direct elections, will not be appointed to the policy-making Executive Council. The fact that the talks ended in deadlock suggests that Mr Patten is not prepared to give any such assurance.

Mr Patten was appointed by Mr Major, and the prime minister is believed to be annoyed that he was persuaded to visit Peking last year on the understanding that China would drop its objections to the airport expenses. Mr Major's visit was a considerable boost for Peking, when the West was cold-shouldering China



because of its human rights abuses.

After the talks ended yesterday, the two sides gave different versions of what had occurred. Sir John Coles said he had put forward a proposal to ease Peking's fears about the cost of the airport, but that China had failed to respond.

Chen Zuoren, a director of

Peking's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said Britain had not made any such proposal, and that it was "unfair" of Sir John to suggest he had. It was the Chinese side, said Mr Chen, which had made a "positive and concrete proposal".

Mr Chen said that Peking was representing the people of Hong Kong by objecting to the costs of the airport, saying: "At the moment the Chinese side has no way of endorsing the financing arrangements, because we and all walks of life in Hong Kong society have doubts about it." Peking has repeatedly claimed to be representing the Hong Kong people, much to the chagrin of the

colonial Hong Kong government, which in name at least rules the territory for the next five years.

Trial ahead: Bao Tong, the private secretary of Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted as leader of the Chinese Communist Party in 1989, is to be put on trial in Peking next week, according to his family. He will be the highest-ranking official to be tried in connection with the pro-democracy unrest in 1989.

Mr Bao has been in prison for three years while the conservative faction of the leadership has tried to gather enough evidence to prosecute him. Now Mr Bao has been charged with leaking state secrets.

Iraq opposition accuses Saddam

Mitterrand's wife escapes car bomb

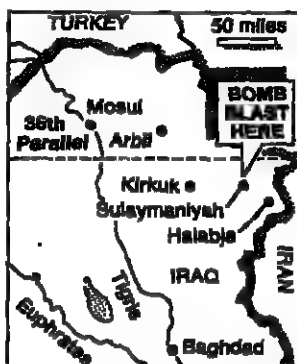
By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DANIELLE Mitterrand, the flamboyant wife of the French president, narrowly escaped death in a car bomb attack in the Kurdish area of northern Iraq yesterday which killed four people and wounded 15 others.

For Bernard Kouchner, the French health minister travelling with her, it was the second brush with death in eight days. He came under fire last week when he accompanied President Mitterrand on his daring mission to the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo.

No one claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack, and United Nations officials in the Kurdish zone said they could not confirm that France's first lady, 67, was the target. Iraqi opposition groups blamed President Saddam Hussein, whose state-run media attacked Mme Mitterrand's three-day humanitarian visit to the Kurds as "foolish behaviour and a rude violation of Iraq's dignity and sovereignty".

Witnesses said a Toyota Land Cruiser bearing UN markings exploded in a fireball as the last vehicle in Mme Mitterrand's six-car motorcade passed a checkpoint on the outskirts of the Kurdish-held town of Sulaymaniyah.



Three Kurdish guerrillas acting as special security guards for her were killed, along with a Kurdish boy, 10, according to a statement from the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups.

The congress statement said Mme Mitterrand and M Kouchner continued their journey to the devastated town of Halabja, where Saddam's forces gassed 5,000 Kurds in 1988. Mme Mitterrand, a champion of Kurdish causes and head of the humanitarian action group, France-Liberte, arrived in northern Iraq on Saturday to study the needs of Kurds displaced by Saddam's army after the Gulf war.

Dr Ahmad Chalabi, of the Iraqi National Congress,

ruled out the possibility that a Kurdish group might have been behind yesterday's bombing but said there was no doubt Mme Mitterrand was the target.

"Saddam Hussein wants to demonstrate that there can be no security in Iraq without his presence and that anyone who is outside his control will answer for the consequences. By attacking Mme Mitterrand he hopes to demonstrate to the world he has no qualms attacking any personage." Kurdish groups have blamed Iraqi intelligence units for a spate of car bombings in Kurdish-held areas in recent months which they say were designed to put rival Kurdish groups at each other's throats.

Hours before the attack, the state-run Iraqi press inveighed against Mme Mitterrand's visit. "Danielle Mitterrand, who is closely linked to Zionism and separatist gangs in northern Iraq, cannot justify her frivolous behaviour with a humanitarian cover," the army newspaper, *al-Qadisiyah*, wrote.

Her trip, as previous ones, was controversial: in 1987, her then newly created humanitarian group caused a furore in South Africa by sponsoring an unprecedented seminar bringing together white liberals and members of the then outlawed African National Congress. She refused to accompany her husband on a visit to Morocco, one of France's closest allies, on the ground that the North African state had imprisoned people for political reasons. In 1989 she gave evidence to the United States Senate's foreign relations committee on the plight of the Kurds.

The apparent assassination attempt overshadowed Iraq's latest stand-off with a team of UN weapons inspectors which spent the night camped outside the agricultural ministry in Baghdad. The Iraqi authorities on Sunday barred the 16-member team of chemical weapons experts from the building.

Yesterday the UN inspectors said they saw officials leaving the building with briefcases and were clearly suspicious these contained documents related to weapons programmes. In New York last night the security council was planning to reprimand Iraq for preventing its inspectors from entering the agriculture ministry building. Baghdad insists that the building has nothing to do with any armaments programmes.

Last night President Mitterrand spoke to his wife by telephone from the Munich summit. A spokesman said France would await further information before drawing conclusions about the cause of the attack.



Target figure: Danielle Mitterrand, wife of President Mitterrand of France, who escaped unhurt from a car-bomb attack in northern Iraq in which four people died yesterday. Nobody has claimed responsibility

Branson joins the billionaire set

The British businessman, Richard Branson, has joined the billionaire list for the first time, according to the American *Forbes* magazine. Mr Branson sold his Virgin record label to Thorn EMI in March, and *Forbes* says he is worth about \$1.2 billion.

The world's two richest individuals are Japanese: Tatsumi Mori, an 88-year-old property tycoon, overcame falling property prices to remain the world's richest individual with a personal fortune of \$13 billion; railway and golf course tycoon Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, 58, has a \$10 billion fortune.

Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, elder son of President Mitterrand of France and his special adviser on African affairs, has been dropped from his father's staff. No reason was given for the departure of Jean-Christophe, 46, a former journalist known to colleagues as "Papamadi" (Daddy-told-me).

Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos has agreed in principle to surrender part of her husband's fortune. If court cases against her family are dropped, said Magtasa-

gol Gamigundo, the new head of a government panel trying to recover the allegedly ill-gotten wealth.

The New York governor, Mario Cuomo, has agreed formally to nominate Bill Clinton for president at next week's Democratic national convention.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church has named Patriarch Paulos Gebre-Yohannes, 57, to head the ancient and independent church. He has lived in the United States for the past 16 years and headed one of three Ethiopian Orthodox churches in the Washington, DC area. He replaces Patriarch Melkior, who was accused of spending church money to support former President Mengistu's war against northern rebels.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain visited Britain's £24 million pavilion at the Expo world fair in Seville yesterday against the advice of El Pais, Spain's leading newspaper, which says the British pavilion is "a lot of shell but hardly any nut".

Arabs get life for bombing

FROM CHRIS ELOU IN ATHENS

TWO Palestinians alleged to be members of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad group, who tried to blow up the British consulate in Patras during the Gulf war, were sentenced to life imprisonment by an Athens court yesterday.

Seven people were killed in the blast in the western Greek port when a 25lb home-made bomb exploded in the hands of another Palestinian as he was carrying it to the consulate, blowing him to pieces.

The court sentenced Ibrahim Bairat, 29, and Assad Abul-Nobani, 27, described as leading members of the Jihad group, to life imprisonment after finding them responsible for the explosion and complicity in murder. The court also found four Palestinians guilty of carrying arms and explosives.

Ozal-Demirel cohabitation shows signs of breakdown

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

COHABITATION, Turkish-style, is becoming increasingly fraught with the political liaison between President Ozal and his prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, exhibiting dangerous signs of strain.

The feud may develop into a constitutional battle, according to trusted ministers who have threatened a campaign to depose the president when parliament returns from its summer recess.

Relations between the two men have been tense ever since Mr Ozal, once a protégé, joined the martial law government which overthrew Mr Demirel in 1980. They reached their present low, however, after the president stormed out of an 11-nation summit in Istanbul complaining that he was being squeezed out of the signing ceremony for Black Sea economic co-operation that he had initiated.

The Demirel camp re-

sponded by having photographs of Mr Ozal, smiling broadly and dressed in full evening regalia, removed from the VIP lounges of Turkish airports. Other official offices are reported to be following the example.

Mr Demirel is reported to have commissioned a private survey which reports on the president's popularity to find out how far he can push his vendetta. He will take some comfort from a weekend poll in the mass circulation *Hurriyet* newspaper, in which 59 per cent thought Mr Ozal should leave his job.

While in opposition, Mr Demirel refused to accept the Ozal presidency, arguing that the parliament which took the vote in 1989 to elevate him from prime minister had lost its popular mandate.

But Mr Demirel failed to win an absolute majority in that election, and the coalition government is far short

of the two-thirds majority which would allow it to bring Mr Ozal down. So Mr Demirel has little option but to cohabit with his rival.

Relations since the election have been formal but correct. In the meantime, however, Mr Ozal's own political base has shrunk and he no longer enjoys the unquestioned support from the Motherland party he once headed. His wife Semra recently resigned as head of the Istanbul branch.

There is also speculation over the president's health after a recent prostate operation. Mr Ozal is the known quantity in Western capitals, many of which gave quiet support to the Turkish military regime between 1980 and 1983. The Demirel government has continued most of Mr Ozal's foreign policy, however, and not moved towards the isolation that some Western envoys had feared.

Tokyo doles out apology but no cash to wartime 'comfort women'

THE Japanese government has finally yielded to the historical evidence and admitted that thousands of Korean, Philippines and Chinese women, some little more than children, were recruited as prostitutes by the imperial army during the second world war.

But, in spite of evidence to the contrary, the government denies that the women were press-ganged and will pay them no compensation. Neighbouring countries have reacted critically to what they feel is an inadequate response to a running sore in relations with Japan.

"We have found documents to prove that the government was involved in the so-called comfort women,"

Koichi Kato, the Japanese chief cabinet secretary, said. "But so far we have found no document to show that those women were recruited by force."

This last statement contradicts the harrowing eyewitness accounts of force being used against the "comfort women". Former soldiers have wept on television while recounting the tortures suffered by the women.

Despite much testimony in recent months, Mr Kato said that the government had no intention of taking evidence from individual survivors "because it involves the problem of privacy". But he said that investigators would continue

Japan has admitted its wartime army recruited thousands of Asian women prostitutes, David Watts writes

ue to search for evidence of force having been used.

Reaction from other Asian countries was negative. "Our tentative examination of the announcement by the Japanese authorities... indicates that their investigations have not brought the whole truth to light," the South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement. "We hope and expect the Japanese government will continue... efforts to fully determine the facts of the case."

Fredrick Chen, the Taiwanese foreign minister, asked Japan to apologise to Taiwanese women forced to become comfort women. "We hope the Japanese authorities would look at the issue without distortion... and they should apologise and express concern to the former comfort women over their misfortune," he said.

Despite an apology from Mr Kato and a promise of "certain measures" in place of compensation - the Japanese government contends

that all outstanding compensation issues were settled in 1965 - the issue seems unlikely to die down. It resurfaced last December when Korean comfort women finally came forward to testify about their ill-treatment and demand redress before Japanese courts. They emphasised that they had been forced to work as sex slaves.

Until yesterday, if the subject of battlefield brothels came up, postwar Japanese governments had always insisted that these were run by private contractors and the state bore no responsibility. Then in January, almost on the eve of the official visit to Seoul by Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime

minister, a Japanese professor said he had discovered documentary proof that the army itself recruited the women and set up and ran the brothels. Yoshiaki Yoshimi, of Chuo University, said the find was a 1938 military command document, signed by the chief of staff of the Japanese North China Army, saying that all battalions must set up "comfort stations".

After that a telephone hotline set up to take calls from former imperial army troops received more than 250 accounts of the military prostitution system. Most spoke of brutal conditions under which the women were kept. Since then, an increasing number of sur-

viving comfort women have agreed to make their experiences public. One woman told the North Korean news agency she was forced to "service" 35 to 40 soldiers a day, followed by five or six officers each night.

Another survivor said one woman who refused to obey orders was tied by her hands, feet and neck to five horses which were then whipped and bolted in different directions.

● Tokyo: More than 20 Japanese MPs have asked a Tokyo district court to ban the dispatch of Japanese soldiers abroad, authorised under a new law that allows the military to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations. (AFP)

Left wins Nigerian elections

Lagos: The centre-left Social Democratic Party has won the federal Nigerian elections, the first after a decade of military rule and the most peaceful in memory. (Elizabeth Obadina writes.)

With only a few results still to be collated from remote corners of Africa's most populous country, the party has won 305 seats to give it a clear majority in the 589-member House of Representatives. The National Republican Convention, its centre-right opponent, won 260 seats but with results in some of its strongest areas still to come. In the 91-member Senate, the Social Democrats won 44 seats and the Republicans 32, according to a tally of results yesterday.

The Social Democrats have regained the political majority in two key cities, Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, and Kano, the ancient commercial capital of the north.

Swap offered

London: South Korea is to offer North Korea a swap of detainees in an effort to rescue peacekeeping moves after a dispute over the North's nuclear programme. Seoul wants to return a journalist who was jailed for 34 years as a suspected communist.

Jewish warning

Buenos Aires: Edgar Bronfman of the World Jewish Congress, which is holding a conference here, warned leaders of a rise in anti-Semitism. Those attending include the Rev Jesse Jackson, President Kravchuk of Ukraine, and President Goncz of Hungary.

Timorese jailed

Jakarta: An Indonesian court jailed an East Timorese civil servant for ten years for allegedly planning a march last November in Dili, the capital of East Timor, which ended in between 50 and 180 people being shot dead by the army. (Reuters)

Sea worthy

Key Largo, Florida: Richard Presley, 33, a NASA astronaut, broke an undersea endurance record after spending 60 days in a submerged scuba divers' lodge as part of an experiment on conditions astronauts would face during long space missions. (AP)

Tunnel planned

Mendoza: Argentine and Chilean officials are to meet this week to discuss linking their countries through a 15-mile tunnel under the Andes. The tunnel would emerge at Juncal, northeast of Santiago, and cost an estimated \$63 million. (AFP)

Curves return

Mexico City: A 10,000-strong crowd welcomed the return of a nude sculpture of a voluptuous woman, "Diana the Hunter", to a roundabout on the grand avenue. It had been removed 15 years ago by the Mexican National League of Decency. (Reuters)

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Judge clears Pretoria of mass killings

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH one hand Richard Goldstone delivers a blow to the enemies of President de Klerk with the other he batters the government by accusing it of ignoring his recommendations.

Mr Justice Goldstone chairs a commission enquiring into the killings that are ravaging parts of South Africa; 27 people died in political violence over the weekend. Yesterday he announced that a committee of his commission would be charged with looking into the Boipatong mass killings. It would sit from August 4 and P.N. Bhagwati, former chief justice of India, would sit as an assessor.

In a separate statement Mr Justice Goldstone exonerated from any direct complicity in or planning of current violence not only Mr de Klerk personally, but also "any member of the cabinet, or any highly placed officer in the South African police or defence force". He said such allegations, in the absence of such evidence, were "unwise, unfair and dangerous".

"They are dangerous," he said, "because they are likely to exacerbate the climate of violence and frustrate and retard attempts to curb violence".

"These words will be music to the ears of the government

and after the signing of the peace accord between the quarrelling political groups became the most effective arm of the agreement. However, Mr Justice Goldstone said yesterday that there was no point in his producing reports if his recommendations were simply ignored by the authorities. He cited the deployment of 32 Battalion (which is made up of Portuguese-speaking black soldiers from Angola), who created mayhem in Phola Park, a squatter camp south-east of Johannesburg. The commission said that they should be withdrawn and not used in peacekeeping operations. That recommendation received "what can generously be described as an unhelpful response from a senior member of the South African Defence Force", according to the judge. Lieutenant General George Meiring, the army chief, simply said he would not withdraw them.

"The commission by no means expects that recommendations made by it should necessarily be accepted or implemented," the judge said. "It does expect, however, that they will not be ignored... If the commission is to continue to serve any purpose, it must retain such national and international credibility as it may have earned. To ignore its recommendations can only be calculated to diminish, if not destroy, the credibility and effectiveness not only of the commission but also of the government."

In considering the reluctance of many black victims of violence to co-operate with the police, the judge pointed out that the government should understand the anger and frustration of many South Africans. "Whether or not groups of former Koefoet members [police auxiliaries] employed by the South African police are involved in incidents of violence," he said, "the infamous reputation of Koefoet is such that the very existence of such a group in South Africa in 1992 is calculated to cause yet further distrust and suspicion of the security forces."

The Koefoet ("Crowbar") group of police auxiliaries was established in Namibia to help hold down the Ovambo uprising and restrain the Angolans. Evidence was given to the Goldstone commission last week that a Koefoet unit was based at a coal mine on the East Rand, and that they may be linked with the Boipatong killings.



De Klerk: accused of not following advice

which has been complaining bitterly about the accusations of its complicity in the township violence coming from the leaders of the African National Congress. There is a danger that the proliferating accusations will prevent the ANC from resuming negotiations with the de Klerk government, and destroy the possibility of settling the country's constitutional future by peaceful means.

The Goldstone commission was set up by the government last year to look at the violence,

Ecuador takes the path of economic reform

FROM MICHAEL STREETER IN GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

THE decisive victory of the veteran right-winger, Sixto Durán Ballén, in Sunday's presidential elections signals the first step in Ecuador's march towards the neo-liberal economic orthodoxies currently fashionable in much of Latin America.

Under the outgoing presidency of Dr Rodrigo Borja, of the Democratic Left party, Ecuador was widely perceived as going backwards economically, with just over 1 per cent growth in its GDP, up to 70 per cent under-employment, endemic corruption and stifling bureaucracy.

Señor Durán, 70, of the United Republican party, who beat his Social Christian rival, Jaime Nebot Saadi, by some 600,000 votes in Sunday's poll, has promised an attack on corruption, drastic reductions in bureaucracy, and privatisation. His first task will be to tackle inflation, running at about 50 per cent.

The most important figure in the new administration, which takes power in a month, may well be the new vice-president, Alberto Dahik, an economist and leader of the Conservative party.



Taking over: Sixto Durán Ballén celebrates his presidential election win in Quito with wife Josefina

Prison riot quelled by tear gas

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AT LEAST one man was stabbed to death and dozens injured in a riot at a maximum-security prison in Kansas early yesterday. The trouble was brought under control after more than 100 prison guards moved in with tear gas and batons. There were unconfirmed reports of other deaths.

Isolated fights in the auditorium at Leavenworth prison, Kansas, on Sunday night erupted into a full-scale uprising in which at least 300 inmates took over the auditorium, cafeteria and recreation yard. One guard had to be rescued by a fire truck which lowered a safety basket into the prison compound.

It took nearly five hours to quell the riot and prison officers said they did not know how the original fights started. "It continued rather sporadically and spread to involve a couple of hundred inmates," a prison spokesman said. "No prison staff were reported hurt. Leavenworth is one of the top security prisons in America, with more than 1,600 inmates."

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NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Ben Macintyre

Lolita is lined up for film bonanza

Perhaps Americans are no more obsessed with the seamy side of life than anyone else, but they are clearly better at selling it.

The old adage that if you are planning to be kidnapped, raped or commit a complicated murder, then tell your agent first, is being amply illustrated by the case of a Long Island teenage girl awaiting trial for attempted murder, who may shortly find her \$2 million (£1.04 million) bail money has been posted by Hollywood.

The saga of Amy Fisher, 17, began as a run-of-the-mill story of sex and violence. Last May she shot and critically wounded the wife of her lover, Joey Buttafuoco, a Long Island mechanic. After playing with the story for a few days, but apparently unable to decide which film the case more closely resembled, *Basic Instincts* or *Fatal Attraction*, New York's tabloid press seemed ready to move on to the next drama.

Then came revelations that Miss Fisher was allegedly a schoolgirl prostitute, using an electronic pager to maintain contact with clients when she was in class. There followed counter-claims that Mr Buttafuoco acted as her pimp and, finally, a grainy video, shown on one television channel and promptly pirated by another, which purported to show Miss Fisher performing her extra-curricular activities.

Immediately Miss Fisher became "The Long Island Lolita" and various

film companies began angling for exclusive rights to tell her tale. Eric Nalburg, her lawyer, says that he has at least ten news and film companies bidding to pay her bail of \$2 million.

The first of several books on the case, *Lolita: a true story of sex, scandal and deadly obsession*, will be published shortly, and Mr Nalburg is confident that he will get Miss Fisher out of jail in time for her high-school graduation prom.

The lawyer for the Buttafuocos, who immediately observed that Miss Fisher had been transformed from a "\$180-a-night prostitute" to a "\$2-million prostitute", has made it clear that if she gets anything for her story his clients want a share.

New York state's senate recently passed a revised "Son of Sam" law, named after the serial killer who styled himself thus, enabling victims of crime to claim a portion of a criminal's profits. The original law, passed in 1977, prevented all criminals from profiting from their crimes but was overturned by the US Supreme Court last December.

Films are not the only profitable sidelines for entrepreneurial crooks or those eager to capitalise on America's obsession with them. Art collectors pay large sums for paintings by mass murderers, and criminals let out of jail can look forward to profitable lecture tours and regular appearances on television.

A summit for dunces

G7 is a waste of money, writes Anatole Kaletsky

Summits of the Group of Seven have only one function, apart from entertaining the world's press corps and offering a culinary showcase for the host nation. They reassure the world's political leaders that they are not alone. All are harangued by businessmen to cut interest rates and stimulate their economies. All are threatened by political traitors, often from within their own parties, and with the exception of Mr Major, all face the possibility of electoral defeat before long. To compare notes and share experiences with others similarly afflicted, in the style of Alcoholics Anonymous, must be a great relief. After a G7 summit, how much easier it must be for a world leader to look in the mirror every morning when he shaves.

Unfortunately, the therapy provided by the G7 experience comes at a high price. Not the mere millions wasted on entertaining the leaders, officials and courtiers, but the cost of the wrongheaded economic policies that seem to be mutually reinforced in the G7 countries whenever their leaders or finance ministers meet. The true price of the G7 jamborees should be measured in millions of jobs and hundreds of billions of pounds and dollars. However grotesque the mismanagement of their economies, G7 politicians have a ready rebuttal to their domestic critics when they return from a summit: "Look at the other world leaders, they all believe the same as me."

All summit declarations are carefully written by finance ministry officials to crystallise and reinforce the conventional wisdom prevailing in the international economic policy establishment over the previous 12 months. Since finance ministries and central banks have basically the same agenda the world over — to cut public spending, reduce inflation and limit government borrowing — the G7 leaders never discuss alternative economic policies, still less question fundamental objectives.

There are, of course, phases in the world economic cycle when the deflationary prejudices of finance ministries and international economic institutions such as the IMF and OECD make good sense. When the world economy is booming, a touch of coordinated deflation can often be desirable. Unfortunately, however, the thinking of economic bureaucrats tends to lag behind changes in world conditions by a crucial three or four years. This is perhaps why the G7 inexplicably threw away the hair-shirts and stimulated the world economy at the peak of both the last two economic cycles, in 1978 and 1988.

Recently, however, the dangers have all been on the other side. Since the summer of 1990, the world economy has been in clear decline and in need of urgent macroeconomic stimulus. For the first time since the 1930s, every important economy has either been contracting or growing below its potential, while world commodity prices and asset values have been falling sharply.

The rational response would have been a cut in interest rates, coordinated internationally to minimise the impact on trade flows, exchange rates and inflation. Beyond that, those countries not suffering from chronic budget deficits and insupportable debt burdens should have increased public investment dramatically to boost their domestic economies. Finally, the G7 leaders should have made a concerted effort to break the deflationary psychology which has been stifling private investment and consumption, by explaining that consumption and investment, rather than saving, must be the main objectives of economic policy in a depression. Instead of welcoming falling prices and calling for further cuts in wages, like latter day Herbert Hoover, they should have promised to sustain asset prices and demand.

We can be sure, however, that tomorrow's G7 communiqué will make no useful contribution to ending the world recession. The finance ministry officials who are the brains behind the G7 are still fighting the battle against inflation they lost in 1988. As for the G7 leaders themselves, one can only repeat Keynes's famous comment about the politicians of the 1930s: "Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler a few years back."

As the BBC launches *Eldorado*, Janet Daley argues that soap operas merit serious academic study

Soaps, sex and sociology

By the time this column appears, we should know whether *Eldorado* has lived up to the promise of its trailers as the worst drama serial ever produced by public service broadcasting. If the BBC has gone a soap too far, it will be because it did not devote enough study to a genre that it helped to create. Whether it was unself-conscious artistry or happy accident, the corporation did invent, in *EastEnders*, the paradigmatic soap opera for our time.

And never doubt that soap opera merits study. Not only is it one of the most influential successes of mass culture, but its preoccupation with emotions and the quality of relationships has become the leitmotif of the popular media. The tabloid press now specialises in the confessional interview and the "frank revelations" of ordinary people caught up in public events. Fashionable chair-shows no longer provide an amiable platform for pluggers of books and movies. They are more eager to confront their guests with full frontal interrogations about their marriages, their bereavements or their delin-

quent children. And the objects of all this prurient curiosity are expected to volunteer eagerly to confide their intimate feelings.

After all, isn't that how life is lived in the soap opera world, with its convincing naturalism? The idea that even the most banal, callous characters conceal a molten core of vulnerability and tenderness is probably the secret of the soap's addictive power. It is the artful deceit which hides behind the verisimilitude: here is a world which looks just like the real one (including, in *EastEnders*, the graffiti and the detailed squalor) and which is peopled by individuals who, thanks to competent acting, also sound authentic.

All that is missing in Albert Square is the real deprivation of working-class life — not material but spiritual. For these *EastEnders* folk live in a never-never land of emotional warmth, honest intimacy and a kind of class loyalty that only sentimental

intellectuals believe in. None of this, I should point out, is said with contempt. As a writer of fiction, I am utterly in awe of the better soaps. What is the secret of that ineluctable power to involve? Why, once the addiction is established, do we care what is going to happen to those characters? The conventions of serial drama are part of the answer. The narcotic effect must have something to do with habituation: the on-going saga which becomes part of one's life and which one knows is not going to end. This openness-endedness is an aid to naturalism, of course. In an ordinary play, the formal structure requires a beginning, a middle and an end, even the most unconventional modern drama imposes some sort of artificial scenario through which events pass and are somehow resolved.

But in soaps nothing is ever finally resolved. Just like people in real life, the characters go on

and on, living through one trauma after another. And their lives seem to be taking place in real time. There are none of the elisions, dissolves and flashbacks used by high drama or film-making. All of this gives credence to the idea that this is a real world, running parallel to our own, which makes the lapses of honesty harder to spot and more pernicious.

All soaps, from the depressive and supposedly cynical *EastEnders*, to the absurd Australian rubbish, revolve around closely-knit neighbourhoods or extended families whose mutual loyalties transcend any temporary frictions. The poignancy of this, in an age of isolation and endemic loneliness, is hard to miss. But the most important distinguishing characteristic of the soap is that it is concerned exclusively and explicitly with relationships. (By this definition, the American series *thirtysomething*, counts as a

soap.) Thus, whatever the milieu, characters must not only be obsessed with the quality of their personal relationships but must endlessly talk about them.

Now whatever favourite occupations the British working classes (particularly their male members) may have, articulating emotions is not one of them. The most bizarre false note, it always seems to me, is the productivity of those hard-bitten denizens of the East End for apologetics to one another ("I'm sorry I blew up like that, 'Chelle', I shouldn't have said all those things, Arthur").

All kinds of people have coded ways of expressing their regrets, but whatever their class, they hardly ever actually tell one another that they are sorry. For such literal and fulsome apology to become a feature of working-class life would be a startling transfiguration. But, of course, these people are really classless. They exist only in that social no-

man's-land imagined by script-writers and producers whose own political proclivities incline them to romanticise the idea of working-class communality. But their concerns and their means of self-expression are definitively middle class, even if they do talk in funny accents.

Their real *raison d'être* is to be a conduit for high grade emotion. The attraction of the soap is that it allows us to view the inner feelings from a safe distance. The characters engage us by their willing self-revelation, their open testimony of deep feeling. In real life, inhibitions can be broken down by crisis: death in the family, terminal illness or traumatic parting. Thus the soap must rely for credibility on a constant stream of personal crises, not just for dramatic plot, but to justify the emotional outpourings which are its real interest. Soaps, in the end, portray our inner selves as we would like to see them. The BBC may yet lose its way in the Mediterranean by forgetting that what audiences want is not so much sun and sex as *Schadenfreude*.



Can Mitterrand win where de Gaulle lost?

As popular disorder grows, the parallels with 1968 haunt the president, says Charles Bremner

An obstinate old president sits in the Elysée Palace or travels the world preoccupied by schemes of national grandeur. France grinds to a halt and the CRS riot police wade in with armoured cars to do battle with workers. It is tempting to see in this latest French drama a replay of the insurrection of students and workers in May 1968, which drove Charles de Gaulle from office a year later.

The echoes are certainly striking, as French and foreign commentators have been busy pointing out. Now nearing the end of a presidency already a year longer than de Gaulle's, François Mitterrand, is widely unpopular and deemed even by many of his old supporters to have lost his touch. His government, left to handle the drivers' insurrection while Mitterrand flies to Sarajevo and then Munich saying not a public word, is discredited and confused. One day it vows to show the rebellious truckers no mercy, and the next it promises sympathy and negotiation. A day later, as trains grind to a standstill, it sends in the sinister CRS, backed up by tanks and army cranes, while the drivers cock a snook and go on with the blockade.

Although his term of office has three years to run, it is far from impossible that Mitterrand, the opposition leader in 1968, will pull one of the grand surprises which are his speciality and retire from the stage, particularly if the September referendum on Europe goes badly or if his Socialist party is trounced in the general

election next March. Then the parallel with de Gaulle, who gambled and lost in a 1969 referendum, would be perfect. However, the contrasts with the present situation are also striking.

The most obvious among them is that in the dreary summer of 1992, there is no sense of common cause, no grand movement and least of all any of the inspiration that fuelled the festive atmosphere of the Sixties upheaval. Naïve and spurious though their alliance may have been, the trade unions stopped work and middle-class students ripped up the Latin Quarter in the name of a liberating ideal, a vague Marxist-Maoist alternative (inspired by both Karl and Groucho) to the stifling and prosperous France of the bourgeois *père de famille* and his DS Citroën.

This time there are no triumphant slogans or doctrines. The stars of this revolt are burlap drivers upset over a scheme designed to enforce the highway code. Those in power, ironically, include some of the radical chic who took to the barricades of 1968. If the shade of the General is observing the chaos of 1992, he must be enjoying the denunciation of the highway blockade as illegal by Jack Lang, a veteran of the University of Nancy in 1968 and now minister of education and number two in the government of Pierre Bérégovoy. With unemployment the primary fear of students, the paving stones around the Sorbonne are being left in peace. Nothing has been heard from Danny "the Red"

Cohn-Bendit, now a German politician like any other.

France is more democratic now, and one of the richest of nations, but is afflicted by an undirected malaise, a *ras-le-bol* (fed-up feeling) which favours no movement or party, least of all the opposition of Jacques Chirac or Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, just as much discontents in their way as Mitterrand.

"The context is diametrically opposed to May '68," noted the eminent sociologist Alain Touraine yesterday. "Government power is weak, out of steam and arriving at the end of the road, but there is no general resentment. Nothing could better illustrate the present spirit of every man for himself than the absurdity of the farmers, veteran terrorists of the nation's highways, halting the trains to protest against the government's failure to break the siege which is keeping their produce from markets." As *Le Monde* said, "France is in a state of social balkanisation. We have entered the era of sectorial terrorism."

This lack of solidarity has contrary effects. The fragmented nature of the challenge to authority means the situation is nothing like as explosive as it was in 1968. The worst the government has to fear is a chain reaction of unconnected protests dragging on into the summer. While expressing mild sympathy for the truck drivers, most people are far more preoccupied by the disruption to their holidays than by thoughts of bringing down the government.

But the confusion also multiplies the government's task in restoring order. As the former union leader M. Bérégovoy asked, how do you deal with a completely disorganised adversary? It was far easier when unions, even communist ones, negotiated for the workers. Only 3 per cent of the lorry drivers are in unions.

For the moment, the opposition has largely been holding its fire, avoiding the trap Mitterrand and the opposition fell into in 1968, when Georges Pompidou, then prime minister, used their anti-government actions to feed the outrage of the silent majority, so keeping them from power for more than a decade. M. Chirac and his fellow neo-Gaullists have focused their criticism on what they call the paralysis of the Socialist government, and in particular on its failure to "think through" the driving-licence system, which was actually approved by most opposition MPs when it was voted upon three years ago, and upon the government's purported failure to "consult" the lorry drivers before applying it.

Pushed to the wall, the opposition would probably concede that the origin of the present disturbances runs beyond party politics to the nature of the 34-year-old Fifth Republic, which was bifurcated to put an end to parliamentary paralysis and to concentrate power in the hands of General de Gaulle. This system, comments Professor Touraine, writing in the conservative newspaper *Figaro*, has bequeathed to France a chronic disease: the inability to negotiate and manage change. The failure of the Bérégovoy government to introduce a peaceful reform in the touchy domain of driving licences, he says, is one in a long series of episodes which show that France remains stuck, as ever, between two extremes: "inertia and recourse to the bulldozer."



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Yesterday, it was announced that *Top of the Pops* is likely to celebrate its year after nearly thirty years, because of falling ratings. Today, Alan Freeman, one of its original presenters, celebrates his 65th birthday, so becoming an OAP DJ. We are none of us getting any younger.

Oddly enough, Alan Freeman is the youngest of the original *Top of the Pops* presenters: the other three have been in possession of half-price rail and bus tickets for quite some time. Sir Jimmy Savile and Pete Murray were both born in 1925, and David Jacobs was born in 1926. Perhaps it is only fair to these veteran disc-jockeys to "out" a few pop stars too: Paul McCartney has just celebrated his 50th birthday, Mick Jagger will be 50 next year, Bill Wyman is 55, Leonard Cohen is 58, Little Richard will be 60 on Christmas Day, James Brown is 63, Chuck Berry is 65, and even Yoko Ono will be 60 next February. Way back in 1981, Bill Haley became the first rock star to die of old age.

At a rough estimate, the average age of a pop star is now about the same as the average age of a cabinet minister, an ambassador or a bishop. In an oft-quoted *World in Action* special in 1967, Mick Jagger explained to the editor of *The Times*, the Bishop of Woolwich and a former home secretary what the younger generation was really thinking. In a few years time, perhaps the editor of *The Times*, the Bishop of

Woolwich and a former home secretary will be assembled to talk to Mick Jagger what the younger generation is really thinking.

There has already been a certain amount of crowing at the possibility of the demise of *Top of the Pops*. "The wonder is that it has lasted so long," wrote Mr Shaun Usher in yesterday's *Daily Mail*. "Along with the majority of Britons, I haven't watched it for years." But just as even the most unpopular politicians, bishops and editors acquire an untouchable mystique within seconds of being rendered powerless (one can see it happening now with Tony Benn) so too will *Top of the Pops*. It will, I predict, turn out to be the Nye Bevan of television programmes, coaxed over the moment it conks out. In years to come, it will join *Tales of the Riverbank* and *Look Back in Anger* as an emotional touchstone for all those who lived through it, and parents will be ordering their children to switch off their computer games, to stop burying their heads in books and to spend an hour sweating up an old *Top of the Pops* video as part of their homework for the Ancient Pop Music and Allied Studies GCSE exams.

To assist the younger generation in its studies, I have prepared this handy cut-out-and-keep crib to questions that examinees are likely to be asked about the principal dates and events in the history of pop music.

1) "The eyes of an entire nation were upon us," said Jimmy Savile of the first night of *Top of the Pops* in January, 1964. Discuss.

2) The following are extracts from a little-known piece written by noted thinker Germaine Greer on the death of Jimi Hendrix in *Q* magazine, October 1970. Read them through thoroughly before answering the questions beneath.

(a) How many times did he start to rap charming with his bush-baby eyes and his ready smile and that fast sharp patter only to find no comeback but frowning? How often did the rapping change to pan-handling and then to sneering because his friends were nothing but an audience and they didn't know the difference between the pan-handling and the straight rap?

(b) He may not have wanted us to grieve for him, but we had better grieve for ourselves. We have lost the best rock guitarist we ever had because we did not know how to keep him.

In your own words, what do you think Dr Greer meant by this? (For advanced students only.)

3) Ancient History. If you don't dig, you lose your superiority over the square and so you are less likely to be cool. (Norman Mailer *Hipsterism*, 1957).

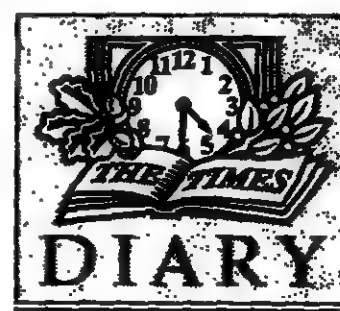
Mayle supremacy

PETER MAYLE is delighted by the absence of uninvited visitors on his Provencal doorstep, but the impasse on French roads is driving other British Francophiles to distraction. Those who managed to reach their French country houses before the blockade face the not entirely unpleasant experience of being stranded until the dispute is over. Others face the more alarming prospect of being stuck in Britain for the best part of the summer.

Sir Stephen Spender is concerned about his wife. "She's alone out there and rather stuck. She was going to come back on Friday, but we don't now think she will be able to," Lady Spender, speaking from her house near Avignon, was keeping her upper lip commendably stiff. "The small roads are chock-a-block with traffic because of the position on the autoroutes," she says. "I'm half way up a mountain and I haven't even tried to get out. I am told it's impossible to get to Avignon."

A near neighbour, the writer Joanna Kilman, managed to take one of the last trains south, queuing for two hours for a ticket. "It's a bloody nuisance. There are lorries everywhere, abandoned by Spanish and German drivers, and everyone is getting frustrated," she says. "People are coming to blows. There have been fistfights even in our small village. Petrol is now in short supply and there is practically no meat in Lyon. I'm selling my house and due to move out on July 20. If it isn't over by then I don't know what I will do."

Meanwhile Mayle is enjoying life sans les Anglais. To his intense irritation, many readers of his books about Provence turn up



every summer in his village of Menerbes, 20 miles south-east of Avignon, demanding that he sign copies. Yesterday he was so enjoying hearing French rather than English in the local restaurants that he was refusing even to take phone calls from the home country. "He's not willing to comment," said his publisher. "He is hard at work on another book: *Peace in Provence*, perhaps?"

Not everyone was caught as unaware by the blockade as President Mitterrand. Take this advice on the autoroutes: "You will be unlucky to be held up by roadworks. However you may run foul of farmers, lorry-drivers or any other group of protestors that has decided to block the road as a way of exerting pressure on the government." Prophetic words, for they appeared eight weeks ago in Colin Corder's book *Some of My Best Friends are French*.

Old stager

ONE OF the best loved leading ladies of the theatre, Evelyn Laye, will tomorrow recreate the song and dance routine which she last performed with Sir John Mills at the London Hippodrome 59 years ago. Laye, who will be 92 on Friday, has not danced with Mills since their performance in the

musical *Give Me a Ring in 1933*. "I remember it well. He was so romantic," says Laye, who is due at the London Palladium tomorrow for a reprise with her old partner of "I don't know how I can do without you."

The performance is part of the entertainment industry's tribute to Laye's 77-year career in show-business. Although she first appeared on the Palladium stage 55 years ago, Laye admits she will be nervous tomorrow night. "My heart still misses a beat."

She'll brewers of fine English ale and patriotic sponsors of Graham Gooch's England cricket team, have run into a little flak from RAF veterans over a new pub in Leeds. The brewery ran a competition among the locals to find a name for the pub, which was built on the site of a second world

war air-base at Clifton Moor. Those venerable English warriors of the air, the *Halifax* and the *Lysander* emerged as clear favourites. And what name did *The local* choose? *Memphis Belle*. The local RAF association is not impressed by the argument that the

pub stands on land leased from Warner Brothers, which made the film of the same name. They now fear that *Telety* will soon be giving up the England Test team in favour of the Red Sox.

BBC who?

SOME may argue that he has a lot to answer for, but the world of popular music should today raise a glass to Christopher Stone, the man without whom there would have been no Radio One and rap music would have been no more than a bad dream. Exactly 65 years ago today, Britain's first disc-jockey played his first record on the BBC airwaves.

Yet he was never meant to do the broadcast. He was deputising for his brother-in-law Sir Compton Mackenzie, editor of *The Gramophone* and author of *Whisky Galore*. At the time the idea of offering words of comment between pieces of recorded music was considered revolutionary. "I insisted on being free to meander along in my own fashion and tell a few personal stories prompted by the records I played," said Stone shortly before his death in 1965.

By coincidence, the first broadcast took place just a day after the birth of Alan "Fluff" Freeman, the veteran BBC Radio One DJ who celebrated his 65th birthday with a lunch at Broadcasting House yesterday. "Yes I know all about Christopher Stone, but I had no idea about the timing of his historic broadcast just one day after my own debut. As far as I am aware I didn't hear his pioneering broadcast," Freeman can be excused his ignorance of the date. Even the BBC is not celebrating the anniversary today, simply because it did not know about it. "Christopher who?" demanded a Radio One spokesman.

A touch of the old Memphis blues.

sep



DENTISTS DISTRESSED

It may be no coincidence that the central and rather forlorn character in Graham Greene's play *The Complainant*, Lovers, he comes across as an immature, insecure human being. Greene plainly intended the use of this profession, unfairy or otherwise, to add to a sense of bathos. The truth is that dentists have never enjoyed the same public esteem as doctors — or since *All Creatures Great and Small* of vets.

Dentists are now having a hard time. The general improvement in young people's teeth, largely due to fluoridation, means that there is not the same need as of old for regular checkups or routine treatments. At the top, hi-tech, end of the market there have been great advances. But many have followed American experience, in the direction of what is virtually cosmetic surgery. A universal provision of "crowns" and "bridges" can hardly have been the priority that Anselm Bevan had in mind when free dentistry became an integral part of the National Health Service in 1948.

As a result, a gap has developed between the reward a dental practitioner gets for such work under the NHS (which for most people ceased to be "free" in 1951) and the market rates available in private practice. This discrepancy lies at the heart of the present dispute. Put bluntly, the majority of the nation's 20,000 dentists, as reflected yesterday in the results of the separate ballots of their two professional associations, see no reason why they should continue to impoverish themselves by working for the NHS when they can do so much better by treating privately the many patients who seem ready and able to pay.

The dentists' leaders fasten the blame on the government. They claim that by introducing a 7 per cent cut in NHS fees across-the-board, the health department has deliberately provoked the present dispute. Technically, they may be right. But whatever the

wisdom of the proposed cut (originally announced by William Waldegrave and now confirmed by Virginia Bottomley), it has only accelerated an inevitable collision between the profession and the government over this aspect of the nation's health.

Dentists have been marching away from the NHS for some time. In parts of South-east England it is almost impossible for a newcomer to register with an NHS dentist. But it will not be in the affluent regions that the real damage will be done if dentists now act on the result of their ballots and refuse (except perhaps for children and the old) to offer treatment under the NHS. In areas such as the North-east of England, where private practice is still the exception, any boycott by dentists of NHS patients threatens to leave only hospital casualty departments available to the relatively poor for the relief of pain.

Neither the government nor the dental profession can possibly wish that sort of result. There is bluff on both sides, not least because the deadline for the imposition of the cut in fees now stands less than 24 hours away. One immediate step the government should take is to appoint an independent arbitrator to discover whether the dentists' claim that the effect of the cut in fees will be to reduce incomes by an average of £6,000-£7,000 has any basis. That would buy time, but in this sort of dispute time in itself is a valuable ingredient in reaching an acceptable settlement.

In the longer term Mrs Bottomley must think hard about whether there is any place for NHS dentists as such, or whether this is a case for privatisation and means-tested benefits. At the moment her department risks giving the impression that it is trying to throttle the public side of dental treatment by tightening the purse-strings. Perhaps it should go back to work out a new system of publicly-funded dental care in a nation that has far better teeth than ever before.

DRAWING THE LINE

Russia's constitutional court is considering today whether the communist party is to be permanently banned, or whether its suspension by President Yeltsin after the abortive August coup should now be lifted. Already hardline communists are speaking of a "new Nuremberg trial" for those who served the old regime. Their attempt to drum up sympathy is hypocritical and irrelevant: the court is not being asked to decide individual responsibility for wrong-doing, but whether the party as such violated the constitution.

Even so the court's ruling will be momentous. If it decides that the party can be reconstituted, opponents of Mr Yeltsin's reforms will have a determined and experienced core around which to unify, and the danger of bloody confrontation on the streets will be increased. If it decides to ban the party indefinitely, pressure will grow on Mr Yeltsin to bring to justice not only the coup leaders, but other former apparatchiks accused of corruption and human rights violations.

President Yeltsin will arrive in Munich to meet the G7 summit leaders within hours of the court convening. His argument for Western aid will be undermined if the spectre of communism is to rise again in Russia, especially after his ringing declaration in Washington that he would never again allow this evil in his land. The court is therefore under great political pressure to uphold his ban. But would the West really welcome the next step, the trial of former party members? Is such a symbolic cleansing of the country from its past necessary or desirable?

Mr Yeltsin could usefully ask Helmut Kohl for his view. He has already compared Russia's post-communist era with Germany after the second world war. He has spoken of the need to rid his country of communist influence, just as Germany renounced Nazi ideology. This means changing the laws, rewriting school textbooks, promoting press freedom, scrapping the whole apparatus of lies, control and deception.

On the degree of individual culpability,

Mr Yeltsin could again consult Herr Kohl. Germany has been wrestling with the question of personal responsibility for the horrors inflicted on the East German population by the Stasi. Many Germans have doubts about the morality of putting border guards on trial while the bosses who gave the orders were in foreign embassies or claiming to be sick. Opening security files to determine such responsibility has been horrific for much of East Germany. For many it has been a catharsis, but even a tangential mention in the files has destroyed marriages, broken careers and prompted suicides.

Vadim Bakatin, the liberal who briefly took over the KGB after the coup, decided early on that there would be no public access to all the files, no naming of the millions who have at one time or another served as informers. In the Russian context, this was wise. In an atmosphere of accumulated bitterness, economic despair and envy at former privilege, a witch-hunt could poison all attempts to build democracy.

But there can be no blanket absolution for the most blatant crimes. Too many of those who perverted what was even then the law and the constitution are now trying to escape blame, passing themselves off as new businessmen or nationalist champions. Those sent to the gulag or psychiatric prisons should have the chance of redress in court.

Even if the party remains proscribed, former membership should not necessarily be a disqualification for involvement in the gigantic task of putting a ruined country back on its feet. But neither should membership of what was once a legal organisation be any protection against prosecution for corruption, embezzlement of funds, human rights violations, or persecution of thought, religion and ethnic minorities. Mr Yeltsin will find support in Munich for his reform, sympathy for his political predicament. In turn he must convince the world that those guilty of evils under communism — rather than just the evil of communism — will be punished.

TRUMPING ACES

The master of returns beat the fastest gun in the West, just, in an absorbing men's singles final at Wimbledon, so reducing, at any rate temporarily, the alarm that power is coming to dominate tennis at lawn tennis. In spite of firing 37 aces to Andre Agassi's nine, Goran Ivanisevic still lost when his service finally faltered in the last game of a heroic match. It was good for tennis that this year the tough players did better than the thunderbolt-servers and galloping net-chargers. But the result will not banish the fear, widespread among professionals and commentators, that the big service and power play may be blasting away the subtler skills of tennis.

The fast service has always been an exciting part of the modern game. There was no electronic machinery to measure the speed of the ball when Ellsworth Vines aced Bunny Austin to win the match point of the Wimbledon singles final in 1932. But Austin declared he did not know if the ball passed him on the backhand or forehand side. Since then, players have become more powerful and more professional, as they have in all sports. But in tennis over the past 20 years new equipment has increased their power. The synthetic rackets are lighter, stronger, less flexible and more tightly strung than their predecessors made of wood and cat-gut. With them, the top women can serve nearly as fast as the men; and some of the men can serve at around 130 mph.

If tennis were ever to become a game in which two superbly strong young athletes merely projected aces past each other in turn until one of them made too many double faults, then it would be time to reduce the advantage of the service. This could be done

by raising the net, or moving the service line closer to the net. Another way to cut back the power of the service would be to revert to the pre-1959 foot-fault rule, under which players had to keep one foot on the ground during the service. To allow only one service instead of two would kill the excitement of the big service, and would make the game even harder for those amateurs and weekend rabbits for whom the rules are framed also.

Something could be done to curb the power of the equipment. The pressure in the ball could be reduced without losing its crispness. Experiments are being made with fluffier balls, which would swing more. Too many millions have been spent on developing the modern racket to revert to cat-gut and wood. The powerful big-bodied rackets which encourage baseline power at the expense of the finer touch could still be banned. But the new power rackets have improved women's tennis, and enlivened the monotony of the clay-court game. Ordinary players like their new power. It is only on fast grass and indoor surfaces that the blitzkrieg of the big service threatens to blast tennis off the court. Each of the four biggest tennis tournaments takes place on a different surface, bringing variety to the game and offering better chances to different types of player. Variety is the charm of tennis, which could otherwise become a monotonous bore. Equipment should be modified before changing the rules or the court; and the game should be kept the same for professionals and amateurs. But for this Wimbledon there was delight in fine tennis of many varieties, and relief that the big service did not entirely rule the courts.

Universities back students' role

From Dr Bruce Coleman

Sir, The government intends to change the position of student unions in higher education (report, June 15). Few universities would go to the stake to defend the National Union of Students; but, as debate at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals on July 3 showed, our own student unions are another matter.

Most universities have allowed their students a role in the governance of the institution (for example, by places on senates) and this development has won Privy Council approval. There is also constant need for dialogue and negotiation between university authorities and recognised representatives of the student body.

These needs for representation could not be met through student organisations constituted on a voluntary basis. If our student unions were dissolved by law we would have to set about replacing them with something similar.

Most student unions either help their universities to run, or run themselves, a variety of services, ranging from trading concerns like shops and bars to sport and other recreational provision and to important welfare and advice services. The welfare services, which are often subsidised by the commercial activities, are under ever greater pressure these days and are more valued and trusted by students because they are not run directly by university administrations.

Most universities would not wish to run all these services and activities themselves. Leaving them to students to manage has advantages, not least the development and encouragement of administrative skills, commercial awareness and social responsibility.

I would suggest, therefore, that if the government does move against certain kinds of political activity within student unions it takes good care not to damage either their representative role or their provision of very worthwhile services. Politics of the kind which public funds should not subsidise could then be left to voluntary participation and financing by individual students, as are many activities within our universities already.

Most students, though irritated by the occasional excesses of their unions, would not term their union membership compulsory but automatic, not an infringement of liberty but a right. That view is neither foolish nor irresponsible and this university, alongside many others, would wish to press government to give it due weight as it considers its legislative proposals.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE COLEMAN
(Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
University of Exeter,
Queen's Building,
The Queen's Drive,
Exeter, Devon,
July 4.

Fishing controls

From Mr J. O. Portus

Sir, A mass lobby by the fishing industry will take place at Westminster on July 7 to protest at the proposed introduction of legislation — the Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill — that will lead to a link on the number of days on which a British fishing vessel may go to sea.

A limit on days at sea, or "effort control" as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food calls it, will impose yet more artificial constraints on an industry besieged by bureaucracy from both HMG and the EC. It is agreed by Maff that the quota system will continue, but on a limited number of days.

The legislation will not be enforceable on British vessels based in other EC member states, so the "flag of convenience" vessel will fish with impunity. Moreover, other EC vessels will not be subjected to the proposed restrictions. They will catch the fish not taken by British vessels and will supply our markets through expensive imports.

Fines of up to £50,000 may be imposed for fishing for more days than allowed, even if the UK has not fully taken its quotas of the target species or if the vessel in question is not catching quota species.

The legislation also allows the minister to remove a vessel's licence without the need to prove guilt in a court of law.

Maff should allow time for technical measures to conserve fish stocks, introduced on June 1, to take effect. It should target a fleet reduction scheme at stocks under pressure and should encourage diversion of effort into low-pressure fisheries. There is grant aid available in Europe to promote such schemes.

The proposed bill is not part of a rational or effective conservation scheme, but a panic measure. It is an insult to the industry and the government should withdraw it.

Yours faithfully,
J. O. PORTUS (Chief Executive,
South Western Fish Producers
Organisation Ltd.,
Unit 2, The Fish Market,
The Barbican,
Plymouth, Devon,
July 4.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Access to English literature at school

From Mr Geoffrey Bremner

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Death of the lad of letters", June 29) must belong to an exceptional and now largely unidentifiable generation if "all [his] coevals" (his italics) had read "practically all of Shakespeare", "at least half a dozen Dickens" and a whole lot more, by the age of 14.

Those of his "coevals" who were not privileged to receive an elite education at the better public and grammar schools fell over three-quarters of the population might with luck have enjoyed for not a passing acquaintance with Shakespeare, had a look at one of the shorter Dickens novels and dabbled in a few other books. Most of the names in his list of writers would have been unknown to them, and probably still are.

Mr Levin harms his case by writing as though everybody had had the same educational privileges as himself. He also forgets that our literary heritage can only ever provide enjoyment for a minority.

By all means let us try to evolve a form of education which preserves it for that minority; but let us not talk as though the others don't exist.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BREMNER,
12 College Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, Hooley for Bernard Levin and his concern for poetry and literature in schools. I have much enjoyed my new resolution to spend 20 minutes or so every morning learning a poem (whilst doing my exercises).

So far I have 40 of the great classics more or less under my belt, and at this rate I shall soon overtake Levin's 2,000 lines.

I wish that I had been made to learn more poems at school — the few that I did learn have given me more pleasure since than anything else in the syllabus.

I suggest that children at school could be sponsored for fundraising appeals to learn poems at so much per line (or even for pocket money at home — why should pocket money be unearned?).

I herewith offer 20p-a-line sponsorship, with a £50 upper limit, to the first pupil who gets his or her school to take this up and who learns some truly difficult and challenging poetry by, say, Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Only those lines that were faultlessly recited to an audience, as

verified by the teacher, would get their sponsorship money.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ALBERY,
20 Heber Road, NW2.

From Mrs L. K. Knight

Sir, If children are not introduced to literature from an early age, then there is little likelihood of their acquiring the skills of reading and lucid writing later in life.

I was an average pupil who took general school certificate at the age of 15. For the English literature paper of that year — 1938 — the set texts were Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* (large portions of which had to be committed to memory) and Milton's *L'Allegro* and *"Il Penseroso"*. This was a three-hour paper, with context questions as well as written essays.

There was also an English language paper of the same length: both of these papers had to be passed at one sitting along with other basic subjects, including one foreign language. Fail one, fail all.

Now, our children are being let down because teachers have often neither appreciation nor training in the teaching of classic literature. It is a knock-on effect.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE KNIGHT,
Broadwell Leigh, White Street,
Market Lavington, Wiltshire.

From Professor Paul Kline

Sir, Bernard Levin highlights a problem which afflicts all teaching, not only of English, in schools today. This is the failure to use intelligence test scores as an index of what sensibly might be expected of a child. Without these scores it is not possible to know whether a child is performing well or well below his or her ability.

Intelligence test scores used in this way are far from cruel to low performers. Such children may be released from the burden of too high expectations, just as high performers will not be allowed to doze. Much guilt about failure is therefore removed: guilt which a mistaken egalitarianism sadly fosters in academically less gifted children and their families.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KLINE,
University of Exeter,
Department of Psychology,
Washington Singer Laboratories,
Exeter, Devon.

Is this not a clear example of political expediency overtaking theological principle?

Yours sincerely,
PETER GELDARD
(Chairman,
The Catholic Group in
General Synod,
Faith House,
7 Tufon Street, SW1.

From Mr Frank Williams

Sir, Clifford Longley is absolutely right when he says that it strains credibility to suggest that a two-thirds majority in favour of ordaining women to the priesthood would show "the mind of the church" or, even worse, "the mind of God". It should be obvious that you cannot discount the deeply held convictions of one third of the church by passing legislation which they cannot, in conscience, accept.

It does not need a vote in General Synod for us to know that unity is God's will for his church, and it is abundantly clear that a vote in favour of this measure will bring about the most appalling disunity. For this reason, if for no other, I believe the synod will reject it.

It will, however, be sad if this rejection comes about only as a result of a vote in the House of Laity. The House of Bishops in particular will be very aware of the consequences which will follow if this legislation is passed. They will realise what it will mean in terms of division in their dioceses.

For this reason I believe that some bishops who are in favour of ordaining women, and some of the clergy who feel that way will, nonetheless, come to feel it right to vote against the legislation at this time for the sake of that unity which we know to be Christ's will for his church.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WILLIAMS
(Lay member, General Synod),
31 Manor Park Crescent,
Edgware, Middlesex,
June 29.

Secondly, district councillors of all parties are, indeed, concerned at the sudden flurry of self-serving publicity and propaganda recently emanating from county councils and directed at chargepayers with the apparent object of manipulating local community consciousness in advance of the Local Government Commission for England.

District councils do not want to be driven into responding in like manner in self-defence, especially since all such PR, whether from county or district, is ultimately paid for by the same set of chargepayers.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BISHOP
(Conservative member,
Rother District Council),
Combe House, Beckley,
Rye, Sussex,
June 24.

It is, therefore, most sensible to review the present two-tier system and the apportionment of responsibilities for the various services.

Business letters, page 25

Licence to draw in time of drought

From the Chairman of the National Rivers Authority

Sir, Mr Derek Braggins (June 27) asks whether the decision by the National Rivers Authority to issue a licence to abstract water from the River Axe can be reconciled with the statement made by me (letter, June 24) that the NRA "will not hesitate to vary or revoke licences in order to protect the environment".

There is no contradiction between what I said in my press conference and the action taken on the Axe because I stated that

where reducing or stopping abstractions means water companies having to seek alternative sources of supply this will be taken fully into account in the setting of timescales for action.

We cannot just ignore the immediate needs of the large numbers of people who at present depend on the existing source, but the licence which has just been varied is a temporary one which expires in June 1994. The water authority is currently laying a new water main from Tiverton to boost resources in this part of the country but it is not programmed for completion until next spring.

Last year's drought order was refused by the inspector after the public enquiry, during the course of which rain fell; sadly there has been no similar rainfall this summer. Stringent conditions have been imposed in order to achieve the maximum possible reductions in consumption. These include hosepipe bans and the banning of certain non-essential uses of water. The environmental condition of the river is being carefully monitored.

The time limit for determining other applications made by South West Water for the Axe and Exe river catchments has been extended to March next year to allow for extensive public consultation over a consultant's report on the possible options for meeting future demands for water in this part of Devon.

Yours etc,
CRICKHOWELL, Chairman,
National Rivers Authority,
30-34 Albert Embankment, SE1.
June 30.

From Mrs Pamela Maxwell

Sir, That the water companies have a "legal obligation to supply" (letter, June 29) is surely the crux of the matter. I understand that until the Water Industry Act 1991 companies could refuse to supply a new development if it considered their resources were inadequate.

More and more housing is being forced into the South East; many aquifers have dried out during the prolonged drought, so the water companies have no alternative to increased river abstraction, with the attendant environmental horrors. Refusal to supply would lessen the manic overdevelopment in the South East and water reserves would gradually increase.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA MAXWELL
(Chairman, The Haywards Heath Amenity Society),
East Frankslands, Lewes Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex,
June 30.

From Mr Christopher Wilkins

Sir, Abstraction licences are to draw off and then to return the water in an acceptable state. It is clear that in the South East the water is used and not returned, as in the case of the Darent (letters, June 19, 24).

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER WILKINS,
2 Phoenix Lodge Mansions,
Brook Green, W6,
June 30.

Silence on court

From Ms Asphodel P. Long

Sir, To what extent, I wonder, might Monica Sele's defeat at Wimbledon (report, July 6) have been the result of the "psychological warfare" which induced her to change at the very last moment the basic training method of grunting.

During the men's matches no one complained of inability to hear the ball struck because of similar noise. I hope Monica will hold to her asseriveness next time.

Yours sincerely,
ASPHODEL LONG,
5 Cavendish Court,
St George's Road,
Brighton, Sussex,
July 6.

Green towels

From Mr R. E. Roberts

Sir, On a recent visit to Switzerland we were greeted in our hotel bathroom by a notice printed in four languages, as follows:

Dear Guest, Every day, hotels launder a great many towels — most of them unnecessarily. This leads to enormous quantities of detergents polluting our water system. You too can make a contribution to preserving our environment — by using your bath linen more than once. Please place this card only on the towels you no longer wish to use... Thank you!

This request had been initiated not by a green hotelier but by the Swiss Hotel Association. British hotels, please copy.

Yours etc,
R. E. ROBERTS,
5 Priory Crescent,
Kents Bank,
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
July 6: By command of The Queen, the Lord Camro, Lord in Waiting, called upon the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Jacobs today at Dolphin Square, London SW1 and welcomed their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty on their arrival in this country.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 6: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attended a dinner in support of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship at St James's Palace this evening.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this morning attended the 1992 Sonoma International Championship at Windermere Cruising Association Clubhouse, Windermere, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

Her Royal Highness afterwards opened the new Magistrates' Court at Kendal, Cumbria.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the British Nutrition Foundation, this evening attended a Silver Jubilee Reception at the Royal College of Physicians, Regent's Park, London NW1 and was received by the Mayor of Camden (Councillor Wm Parsons).

Her Royal Highness, President, Animal Health Trust, later attended a Dinner at the Kennel Club, 1 Clarges Street, London W1.

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 6: Queen Elizabeth The

Queen Mother this afternoon visited Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 6: The Prince of Wales this afternoon gave a Garden Party for Volunteers who assist The Prince's Trusts and other organisations.

His Royal Highness this evening gave a dinner in support of the Game Conservancy Trust.

The Princess of Wales today visited Manchester and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Turning Point, visited Edward House, Oldham.

The Princess of Wales subsequently opened the Manchester Royal Infirmary Phase II Development.

Finally, Her Royal Highness named the new Trafford Narrowboat for the Young Disabled.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief XV/XIX The King's Royal Hussars, this evening held a Reception at Kensington Palace for former Commanding Officers of the Regiment.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
July 6: Princess Alexandra, Chancellor, this afternoon presided at congregations for the conferment of Degrees and an Honorary Degree at Lancaster University.

The Lady Mary Muntford was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Baroness Alroy of Abingdon, 73; Mr Michael Anson, MP, 47; Sir John G.N. Brown, publisher, 70; M. Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, 70; Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, 63; Sir Michael Colman, chairman, Rediffon and Colman, 64; Lord Denman, 76; Mr Charles Dyer, playwright and actor, 64; Lord Farnham, 61; Dr Rae Gledhill, physician, 93; Sir John Hadley Greenborough, former president, CBI, 70; Rear-Admiral J.S. Grove, 65; Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Harris, racehorse breeder, 82; Major Richard Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, 61; Mr Michael Hirst, QC, 51; Professor Tom Husband, vice-chancellor, Salford University, 56; Mr Tony Jacklin, golfer, 48; Mr Barry Jackson, Sergeant Surgeon to the Queen, 56; Miss Rhona Jones, former mayor, St Bartholomew's Hospital, 71; Mr Hamish MacInnes, mountaineer, 62; Lord Mals, 81.

Sir Christopher Mallaby, diplomat, 56; the Earl of Mansfield, 62; Mr Alan C. Menzies, composer, 81; Mr Alessandro Nannini, racing driver, 33; Mr Bill Oddie, actor and comedian, 51; Mr John P. O'Sullivan, 51; Mr Philip Reeves, actor, 61; the Hon Sir Steven Runciman, C.H., historian, 89; Sir Kelvin Spencer, scientist, 41; Mr Ringo Starr, former Beatles drummer, 52; Sir Adam Thomson, former chairman, British Caledonian Group, 66; Sir Richard Turnbull, former colonial administrator, 83; Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, former Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, 82.

Meeting
Royal Over-Sea League
Sir David Hunt, Honorary Patron of the Hellenic Cultural Centre, was the speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Sea League held last night at Over-Sea House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Latest wills
Mr David Lewis Jones, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who won the 1945 Cheltenham Gold Cup on Red Rover, left estate valued at £127,834 net.

Mr Leslie Francis Davey, of Mr and Mrs Davey, left estate valued at £1,493,698 net.

Lincoln's Inn
The following have been elected officers for 1993:

Treasurer: Lord Oliver of Aylmerston; Immediate Past Treasurer: Mr Michael Corke; QC; Master of the Library: Sir Christopher Slade; Dean of the Chapel: Mr Bill Oddie; Lord Justice Foster; Master of the Walks: Mr Justice Gibson.

Chelsea Luncheon Club
The Silver Jubilee Supper of the Chelsea Luncheon Club will be held in London on October 21, 1992. Will ex-members please contact Mrs Hilary Burn-Callander at 8 Walpole Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 4QP.

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Curators at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, moving a seascope "German fleet manoeuvres on the high sea" by Carl Saltzman, into a new gallery which opens on July 22. The exhibits, dedicated to twentieth century sea power and including a radar link showing the mass of shipping in the English Channel, are all set within the reconstructed steel bows of a warship

Appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr Andrew Burns to be Ambassador to Israel, in succession to Mr M. Elliott, who has taken up a further Diplomatic Service appointment.

Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst to be Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord next February, in succession to Admiral Sir Julian Oswald.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon to be Chief of the Air Staff in November, in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater to be Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff in January 1993, in succession to Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst.

Admiral Sir Brian Brown to be a member of the Council of the Officers' Pensions Society.

Mr Christopher Jones to be President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Legal
Mrs Ann Ramsay and Ms Jessica Marshall Burns to be full-time Chairmen of Social Security Appeal Tribunals, Medical Appeal Tribunals and Disability Appeal Tribunals. Mrs Ramsay will sit in the Midlands region and Ms Burns in Scotland, from October 1.

Mrs Catherine Jeanette Tribe to be a full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, from August. She is assigned to the Bury St Edmunds region and to sit at Bedford.

Rotary Club of London
Mr Neville Shulman was inducted as President of the Rotary Club of London at a luncheon meeting held yesterday at the Marlborough Hotel. Among those present were:

The Ambassador of Switzerland, Bulgaria and Senegal, Sir Sigmund Stearn; Mr and Mrs Shulman; Mr and Mrs Shulman; Mr and Mrs Shulman.

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HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Wales, was host yesterday at a luncheon held at Lancaster House in honour of Herr Volker Ruhe, German Minister for Defence.

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Archaeology Revealing Civil War hardware

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Civil War seems too solidly historical an event for archaeology to add much to our understanding, but excavations over the past few decades have shown just how much of the hardware of the conflict has survived to complement the software of documentary sources.

Major fortifications can still be seen around Newark, Nottinghamshire, where not only the Royalist town defences remain but also some of the Parliamentary siege works. The Royalists added a new perimeter to the crumbling medieval walls in 1642, with outlying forts beyond one of these. The Queen's Sconce, "arguably the most impressive Civil War earthwork in Britain", according to a new booklet by Peter Harrington.

The Sconce is a star-shaped fort with four bastions covering 1.2 hectares (three acres) and surrounded by a large ditch up to 21 metres wide and 4.6 metres deep. It was probably palisaded, and the ramparts rise to a height of over seven metres.

Medieval castles were refurbished in many parts of England. At Sandal, Yorkshire, the towers were cut down to form gun platforms; subsequent bombardment during the three months' Parliamentary siege in 1645 reduced the medieval walls to foundation level. At Clontarf, Barnaby's Tower still bears the marks of cannonballs.

while at Corfe Castle in Dorset the walls were partly demolished, burying a rich trove of artefacts ranging from spurs and a musket rest to a lead shot.

Excavations on these and less spectacular sites have revealed the remains of siege trenches, mines and countermines, and at Hull, the foundations of the Beverley Gate, where Sir John Hotham's denial of entry to King Charles I in 1642 opened the hostilities of the ensuing decade.

Only one large wartime cemetery has been found so far, at Abingdon, Oxfordshire (*The Times*, May 30, 1989), but battlefield burials were reportedly found at Marston Moor and Naseby last century. More recent field-walking at Marston Moor, carefully plotting the locations of musket balls and horseshoes turned up by the plough, has enabled archaeologists to determine the course of the action from the locations of the relics and their relative densities.

The reconstruction of the Battle of the Little Big Horn in the United States has shown how illuminating such an approach can be: unfortunately many English Civil War battlefields have been scavenged by treasure hunters with metal detectors, removing much vital evidence.

Source: Peter Harrington: *Archaeology of the English Civil War*, Shire Books £3.95

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and trustee, will attend receptions at St James's Palace at 11.30 and 4.00 for young people who have reached the gold standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and will attend a dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel at 7.30.

The Prince of Wales, as President of the Prince's Youth Bursary Trust, will visit the YBUT Trade Fair '92, part of the International Autumn Fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, at 10.40; as Patron of the Henry Doubleday Research Association, will open the National Organic Education Centre at Ryeon Gardens, Rye-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, at 1.50.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Benet Institute, will attend a gala given by the Australian Ballet at the London Coliseum at 7.10.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Museum of Science, will attend the annual meeting at St Michael Paternoster Royal at 11.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Royal Show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, at 10.30.

The Duke of Kent will present the Labour's Safety Award for 1992 at Grosvenor House at 6.15.

The Duchess of Kent will open the 26th British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) at 3.55.

Princess Alexandra, as Chancellor of Lancaster University, will preside at a ceremony for the conferment of degrees at the university at 11.30.

Reception
HM Government
Mr Ian King, Secretary of State for Scotland, will host a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Edinburgh Castle to mark the plenary conference of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body.

Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service

The Ministry of Defence announces that the Battle of Britain service of thanksgiving and rededication will be held in Westminster Abbey at 11.00am on Sunday, September 20, 1992.

Applications for tickets, accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope, should reach the Ministry of Defence, P.O. Box 100, Room 344, Admiralty House, The Mall, London, W1X 8BU, by no later than August 7, 1992. Applications received after this date may prove unsuccessful. If the demand for tickets proves excessive, it may be necessary to restrict issue to a maximum of two per applicant.

To assist with seating in the Abbey, applicants are requested to state which of the following categories is appropriate: ex-Battle of Britain aircrew; relatives of aircrew who lost their lives in the battle; past or present members of the Royal Air Force and its Reserve Forces; members of the general public.

Tickets and a note on dress and timings for the occasion will be issued two or three weeks before the service. Applications are not to be made to Westminster Abbey.

Mill Hill School
Foundation Day was celebrated on Saturday, July 4. Lord Sybil of Hadley, Chairman of the Court of Governors, presided. The Guests of Honour were Caryl Chessman, who presented the prizes, and Simon Jenkins, the Editor of the *Times* (OM), who gave the Address. Other speakers were the Head Master, Alastair Graham, who is retiring this term after thirteen years in post, and the Senior Monitor, Nicholas Tandy (Priestley). The Ransome Award was made to the Senior Monitor Emeritus, Francesco De Ra (Baron Bank).

Earlier in the term competitive Entrance awards were made to:

Mark Walker, Grosvenor House, Harrogate (the Quays Master Scholarship); Matthew Price, Belmont (Miss Scholastic); Pablo Martin, Hendon Prep (Parker Award); Major Robert Gledhill, 100, St. John's, London (the Quays Master Scholarship); and James Gledhill, 100, St. John's, London (the Quays Master Scholarship).

Exhibitions: Sundeep Kaur and Mark Gledhill, Grosvenor House, Harrogate; and Sundeep Kaur and Mark Gledhill, Grosvenor House, Harrogate.

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Dinners

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, attended a dinner at James's Palace last night for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship. The Duke of Edinburgh, Mr Eric Kops and Sir Geoffrey Leigh spoke on this occasion.

Society of Friends of the Lotus Children
Mr Suresh Zia, President of the Society of Friends of the Lotus Children, a Charity for the Street Children of India, welcomed the guests at the inaugural charity gala dinner held at Grosvenor House on Saturday evening, July 4, 1992. The principal guest of honour was the Right Hon Paddy Ashdown, MP. Mr Keith Vaz, MP, and Mr Vijay Anand, MP, also attended. The Indian film star, proposed a special vote of thanks to Mrs Surina Vaz, wife of the Hon. Mr. Vaz, for her role in the organisation. The chairman, Mr. Vaz, thanked the guests and said: "The children of India need a special voice. The children of India need a special voice. The children of India need a special voice."

Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball 1992
The Duchess of Somerset will be guest of honour at Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball to be held on Monday, September 14, 1992, at Grosvenor House. Friends of Queen Charlotte's Hospital are asked to support this event. All proceeds from the Birthday Ball will go towards vital research and equipment for the Hospital. Tickets at £125.00 each include a champagne reception and three-course dinner with wine may be obtained from the Birthday Ball Office, Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London, W6 0XG (Telephone: 081 741 4653).

Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian
To mark the 37th Anniversary of the death of Mr Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, a memorial service will be held at The Armenian Church of Saint Sarkis, Iwerka Gardens, London, W8, on Sunday, July 12, 12.00 noon, after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy which will commence at 11.00am.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

Cause your proud boasting, let no word of arrogance pass your lips, for the Lord is a God who knows: he governs what people do.
1 Samuel 2:3

BIRTHS

ADASONA - On Friday June 19th in London, to Jane and Olywelle, a son, Sean, welcome.

GALLAGHAN - On July 3rd in Clontarf, Dublin, to a daughter, Olivia.

CAMPBELL - On July 15th, to Carol and Alan, a son, Robert George.

CRANFIELD - On July 6th, to a daughter, Charlotte.

DICKINSON - On July 2nd, to a daughter, Daisy.

DICKINSON - On July 4th, to a daughter, Daisy.

DUNN - On July 4th, to a daughter, Daisy.

GARMESON - On July 3rd, to a daughter, Daisy.

JONATHAN - On July 2nd, to a daughter, Daisy.

KEARNS - On June 11th 1992, at Ascot, to a daughter, Daisy.

MORLEY - On June 30th 1992, to a daughter, Daisy.

BIRTHS

SANSONE - On July 3rd, at the Humana Hospital, Westchester, to a son, Claudio.

SPURLING - On July 2nd, to a daughter, Daisy.

STAGG - On July 6th, in Brussels, to a daughter, Daisy.

TANNER - On July 1st 1992, to a daughter, Daisy.

TAYLOR - On June 26th at Derby City Hospital, to a daughter, Daisy.

VENN - On July 2nd 1992, to a daughter, Daisy.

WALSH - On July 2nd, to a daughter, Daisy.

WHYTE - On July 6th 1992, to a daughter, Daisy.

WYLLIE - On June 30th to a daughter, Daisy.

● BUSINESS 21-27
● LAW TIMES 29-31

TODAY IN BUSINESS

THIN AIR



Air passengers are paying less for tickets on scheduled international routes, but airlines are suffering big losses page 23

KIER BUYOUT

Hanson is selling UK construction interests to a management buyout for £53 million in what may be a prelude to a Kier Group quotation page 23

LARGER LOAD



Tiphook shows that containers can beat the recession by raising their profits in year to end-April Times, page 24

ICE COOLS

De Beers saw rough gem sales 14.3 per cent lower in six months to June page 23

LAW TIMES

LEGAL LEAN



Paula Davies looks at the institution of the "great unpaid" and finds becoming a magistrate is popular page 18

US dollar 1.9104 (+0.0051)
German mark 2.8914 (0.0041)
Exchange index 92.9 (0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 1891.0 (24.5)
FT-SE 100 2469.0 (28.1)
New York Dow Jones 3331.10 (+0.81)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16657.07 (60.71)

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/4
3-month eligible bills 9 1/8-9 1/4
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3 1/4
3-month Treasury Bills 9.22-9.205*
30-year bonds 104 1/4-104 1/2

London: New York
£: \$1.9109
£: DM2.8908
£: Sfr12.5588
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ECU 60.707980 SDR 12.46
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Forex market close

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Pact aims to prevent another BCCI

Bankers tighten rules in fight against fraud

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL bank regulators have signed a far-reaching agreement, which is designed to strengthen cross-border banking regulation and prevent a fraud on the scale of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International happening again.

The Basle Committee on Banking Supervision yesterday released a four-point proposal, a year and a day after the closure of BCCI, which sets out minimum standards of the regulation of any international bank and will ensure that institutions cannot escape effective regulation.

Gerald Corrigan, chairman of the Basle committee and president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said as he announced the agreement that he could not guarantee it would prevent future fraud.

"There is no supervision that can be foolproof or provide an assurance against fraud, deceit or criminal behaviour. But we sure can raise the hurdles and that is what we are trying to do."

He said, however, that the standards would have helped to prevent the \$10 billion fraud at BCCI. "There is no question that it would have been a lot harder for the BCCI thing to go on for as long as it did if these standards had been in place."

The four points in the agreement are:
□ All international banking groups should be supervised

by a home-country authority that capably performs consolidated supervision.

□ The creation of a cross-border bank must win the consent of the home-country authority and the regulators in the countries where each branch is being set up.

□ Home country supervisors should have access to information from other countries where their banks operate.

□ Any regulator that decides a foreign bank in its country is not being regulated properly can take action against the bank and even close it if necessary.

The terms of the agreement have been left deliberately vague to allow regulators to interpret them to fit individual cases.

In broad terms though, the new standards will force all countries to monitor their banks effectively, or those banks will suffer restrictions on their overseas branches by foreign regulators.

In Britain, the agreement gives the Bank of England wide powers against foreign-registered institutions that it believes are not being regulated effectively. The Bank can warn foreign banks and their home regulators to improve standards within a fixed period, and in extreme cases it can close down offending branches.

The standards are designed to lead to greater co-operation between home regulators, from the country where a bank is registered, and host regula-

tors which inspect each bank's overseas branches. The Basle committee hopes this will create an early warning system to spot any financial irregularities.

Mr Corrigan said: "I have enormous confidence that the international community of supervisors will work together in a harmonious manner."

The standards were unanimously agreed by the members of the Group of Ten industrialised nations as well as Switzerland and Luxembourg, which make up the Basle committee. In October the agreement will be put to a meeting of supervisors from more than 100 other countries.

Mr Corrigan said: "We hope and expect that this effort will command broad co-operation." He admitted, though, that many regulators still had inadequate resources to carry out their tasks effectively. "Around the world we are asking a handful of underpaid people to perform mission impossible. Human resources in supervision is a very large question indeed."

Mr Corrigan said, however, that he hoped the agreement would lead to changes around the world to allow regulators to improve access to financial information. "Supervisory authorities should have the capacity to insist on changes in any corporate form which obscures transparency," he said.

Comment, page 25

Asda cupboard laid bare by 'past management neglect'

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

ARCHIE Norman, 38, the new chief executive of Asda Group, the debt-laden supermarket chain, has charged £452 million of property losses and reconstruction costs against the group's 1991-2 results, and blamed them on "past management neglect".

Mr Norman has written down the balance sheet valuation of Asda's stores by £280 million and provided a further £92.9 million for restructuring, on top of the £78.9 million first-half charge.

The 60 Gateway stores, "for which, in hindsight, the group overpaid", already written down by £100 million from their £700 million purchase price, have now been revalued at a total of £425 million. As a result, exceptional items total £451.6 million, obliterating post-interest trading profits of £86.8 million to leave a pre-tax loss of £344 million, against the £118.7 million profit declared a year ago.

Shareholders will receive the 0.85p a share final dividend forecast at the time of last October's £357 million rights issue, but are to expect a cut in this year's interim payment. The board intends to pay out no more than half the available earnings, which are not expected by analysts to exceed 3p a share, and will seek to bring the interim and final into "appropriate balance".

The rights issue has helped Asda cut its debt mountain

from £948 million a year ago to £678 million at the May 2 year end, and, with a £73 million net profit to be made on the sale of the MFI Group shareholding, Mr Norman says borrowings will be below £600 million by the middle of August.

More than two thirds - £434 million - is classified as long-term debt, due more than a year hence.

In the past six months, the Asda board has been completely restructured.

Times, page 24



Norman: blames neglect

Whitbread to cut brewery stakes

By DEREK HARRIS

WHITBREAD, the brewer and public house keeper, has decided to furl its complex investment "umbrella" stakes in several regional brewers by November 1 to meet the tough monopolies beer orders deadline. Holdings up to nearly 40 per cent will be cut back to below 15 per cent to avoid Whitbread having to sell off up to 1,000 pubs.

If it maintained shareholdings of more than 15 per cent in another brewer, that company's pubs would have to be aggregated with Whitbread's under rules set out by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

The decision immediately

heightened speculation over an early takeover bid, probably by one of the regional brewers, for Marston, Thompson & Evershed, the Burton brewer of Pedigree beer that is much acclaimed by real ale drinkers. Most speculation about a predator has centred on Wolverhampton & Dudley, the West Midlands brewer.

Whitbread and its associate Whitbread Investment Company (WIC), whose cross-holdings both between themselves and regional brewers created the Whitbread investment umbrella, hold a near-38 per cent stake in Marston.

It will also put more pressure on Morland, the Abing-

Bank dashes hopes of early rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday dashed hopes of an early base rate cut as the latest credit data showed consumers continued to repay debt in May rather than borrow more.

Consumer credit outstanding fell £19 million in May after a £56 million fall in April, said the Central Statistical Office. The reluctance to borrow indicates government hopes of a recovery boosted by more consumer spending will not be fulfilled. Total new credit advanced to consumers fell from £4.11 billion in April to £3.77 billion in May.

After testing market senti-

ment on Friday for an imminent move to lower rates, the Bank yesterday sent a signal via its money market operations that it wants the base rate held at 10 per cent. The key three-month interbank rate responded by moving back to 10 per cent from the 9 1/4 per cent it eased to on Friday.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said the authorities had "tested the water and decided this week was not the appropriate time for a cut". Sterling's softer tone also made it more difficult to justify easing, he said. Market disappointment over interest rates was reflected in both the equity and bond markets.

Sunday's Italian discount rate rise to defend the lira ran counter to international sentiment, but City economists believe pressures are building for rate cuts elsewhere after last week's easing in America. Sterling fell to DM2.8914 at the 4pm London market close, against its previous close of DM2.8955. It gained more than half a cent against the dollar to \$1.9104, but was 0.1 lower on its trade-weighted index at 92.9.

In the latest quarter, finance house credit fell £362 million, against a £308 million fall in the previous three months. In contrast, credit card borrowing rose in May to give a £248 million rise in the latest quarter, against a £75 million rise in the previous three months.

Comment, page 25

Wichita line woos British investors to Kansas

By JON ASHWORTH

SOMEWHERE over the rainbow... lies a green corner of America that is just crying out for your money: Kansas. The geographic centre of 48 states. Home to Beech, Cessna and Learjet. A land of Oz with the lowest unemployment rate in America and a yellow brick road paved with tax breaks and incentives, all waiting for the British investor.

Such is the promotional line from the state of Kansas, which is about to launch a huge drive to attract British funds. Where better to start than Harrods, no stranger to American wallets, which is preparing for a huge American promotion in the autumn?

Randall Toshi, head of international marketing for Kansas, flew from Topeka, the state capital, last week to finalise his assault on an unsuspecting

British public. The fact that few people here can find Kansas on a map is beside the point.

The aircraft carrying him was probably 80 per cent made in Wichita, hub of America's aviation industry, where Boeing makes much of its parts before shipping them to its base near Seattle. Some of the food on board probably hailed from Kansas, which produces more wheat and beef than any of its neighbours.

But just where is this magical state, immortalised in *Wizard of Oz*? "Take a map of America, go right to the centre and that's where we are," said Mr Toshi, proudly waving a thick wad of facts and figures.

General Eisenhower grew up in Abilene. Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, was raised in Atchison, and the state has produced more astronauts than

any other. For those still a little hazy, Kansas is a square parcel of land bordered by Nebraska to the north, Missouri to the east, Oklahoma to the south and Colorado to the west. It looks like southern Ireland and is as flat as a pancake. Its central location, Mr Toshi says, means that it is the perfect choice for British industrialists.

Kansas is home to Dodge City, once notorious for its gunfights, and Mr Toshi is quick on the draw. *Blame* Kansas has the largest railway yard in America. *Blame* Unemployment is only 3.6 per cent compared with the national average of 7.8 per cent. *Kapow!* Tourism has increased 213 per cent in five years.

Business jets and military aircraft aside, Kansas boasts its own computer manufacturing zone - the so-called Silicon Prairie - and makes the

robotic arm used on many space shuttle missions.

It recently became the first American state to sign an economic treaty with St Petersburg, the gateway to the former Soviet Union, and is supplying flour mills to help the region overcome crippling food shortages.

The message to British industry is come and take a look. Kansas needs pharmaceuticals companies, food processors and telecommunications groups. A trade mission will visit Britain in September to ram home the advantages of setting up operations in the state.

Kansas has something else up its sleeve. There are plans for a \$350 million Disney-style theme park. The Land of Oz, which would throw in everything from Auntie Em's house to a simulated tornado ride. Who needs California?



On the lookout for trading abuses: Sir Bryan Carsberg wants the OFT to be more of a bloodhound than a watchdog

Carmakers revise forecast as sales stay stuck in first gear

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NEW car sales are continuing to bump along the bottom of recession as the motor industry shows little sign of revival.

Although sales in June increased 4.44 per cent to 102,566, the third monthly rise in succession after 29 months of decline, the marginal improvement was on the same month of 1991, the worst year for sales in a decade. As a result, the industry gave a warning that the June improvement would have to continue throughout

the year if carmakers were to overtake the 1991 sales of 1.59 million.

Manufacturers had hoped for a substantial revival after the Budget in March and the general election in April. There followed three months of improvement but not on a big enough scale to convince motor manufacturers that they have turned the corner out of recession.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation has revised its original forecast for 1992, made

after the Budget, down from 1.76 million to 1.63 million sales. Some manufacturers are even saying that figure may not be achieved without a huge sale of about 500,000 cars next month when the new K registration is introduced.

Neil Marshall, the federation's chief economist, said: "If we can have a good August, then maybe we have a chance of seeing improvement this year."

Sir Hal Miller, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which issued yesterday's figures, cautioned against over-optimism as sales in the past six months were 768,745, compared with 801,684 in the first half of 1991, a drop of 4.11 per cent.

Ford, the country's biggest motor maker, saw its June market share fall from 27.3 per cent to 20.66 per cent. Rover's fell from 14.87 per cent to 13.95 per cent, while Vauxhall continued to close the gap on Ford by raising its market share from 14 per cent to 16.18 per cent and Peugeot Talbot raised its June market share from 7.08 per cent to 8.55 per cent.

OFT chief seeks more active role

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Office of Fair Trading should become "more of a bloodhound than a watchdog", Sir Bryan Carsberg, Britain's new director-general of fair trading, said.

Signalling his ambition to give the OFT a more active role in seeking out abuses of fair trading laws, Sir Bryan drew attention to computer programs employed by the OFT in its recent investigation of car prices. He said such tools could be used to highlight industries where companies appeared to be making excess profits. "I want the OFT to be less reactive and more pro-active," he added.

Sir Bryan, former head of Ofiel, the telecom regulator, also flagged his willingness to assume greater responsibility for mergers now investigated by the European Commission. He is interested in the idea of Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, for a Euro MMC.

Sir Bryan is expected to unveil his strategy for the OFT in September.

Sacrificial lamb, page 25

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Passengers fare better as the world's airlines lose £2.1 bn

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN GENEVA

AIR passengers are paying less for international scheduled route tickets than last year and the world's airlines are returning huge losses, the leading aviation industry body announced yesterday.

Airlines would have to charge everyone an extra £8 per ticket if they wanted to break even, said the International Air Transport Association (Iata).

Taking world inflation into account, international scheduled fares have actually dipped 28 per cent in

the last ten years," the association added.

World airlines lost £2.1 billion in 1991, when the recession and the Gulf war combined to give the aviation industry its worst-ever year.

With revenue from passenger fares falling, airlines are now expected to lose £1 billion on their international scheduled routes this year.

But British Airways was one of the few carriers to buck the trend. The airline recently announced that it had made pre-tax profits of £285 million for 1991-2.

Günter Esler, the Iata director-general, praised BA's profitability,

saying: "I think it's great what British Airways is doing."

The Iata figures showed that BA was the world's leading international service airline in 1991, carrying 17.92 million passengers.

In second place was Lufthansa, the German carrier, with 13.3 million, followed by American Airlines, Air France and SAS, the Scandinavian airline.

Including domestic-route passengers, BA was 11th in the world list with 22.8 million passengers carried last year.

Aeroflot, the Russian airline, was in top place, followed by the United

States' three main carriers — American, Delta and United.

Iata officials in Geneva yesterday told UK aviation correspondents that revenue from passenger fares this year was down by approximately 1 per cent and that the world's airlines were only about halfway towards economic recovery.

In terms of personnel, international airlines had shed 3.4 per cent of employees last year, compared with an increase of 3.5 per cent in 1990 over 1989.

"It's going to be a tough year for the airline industry," said Tom Murphy, Iata's director responsible

for traffic and financial services.

Airlines had done 10 per cent worse in 1991 than they had expected and there was a 4 per cent decline in the number of international scheduled passengers carried during last year.

The main problem months last year were January and February, when there was a 23 per cent drop in total passenger numbers.

Peter Morris, Iata's assistant director of marketing and economic analysis, said: "I don't think that any airline is going to go bust, but some will do a lot worse than others this year."

Hanson sells UK building firms to management

BY ROSS TIDMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HANSON has sold its United Kingdom construction interests to a management buyout for £53 million.

The businesses, which will be known as the Kier Group after their best known operation, had a turnover last year of £598 million and ranked among Britain's ten largest building contractors.

More than 2,000 employees will be offered the chance to buy shares through an employee share ownership plan (Esop).

The buyout is likely to prove the prelude to a return to a

listing with the Stock Exchange once a financial track record has been re-established. The core business, French Kier, was quoted until 1986, when it was acquired by Beazer. Beazer, in turn, was bought by Hanson last December.

Martin Taylor, Hanson's deputy chairman, said that there were no plans to sell the other main Beazer businesses: a housebuilding operation in the United Kingdom and an aggregates business in the United States.

However, the approach

from managers to buy Kier Group was prompted by the renowned philosophy of Lord Hanson, the Hanson chairman, that every business is for sale at a price.

Duncan Brand, Kier's finance director, said that he and his colleagues had told Lord Hanson they would like to buy the business if he wished to sell it.

Lord Hanson accepted the proposition, but has signalled his faith in them by retaining a stake in the business.

In addition to Kier Construction, Kier Group includes Morrison in Northamptonshire, Most Construction in Gloucestershire and on Merseyside, and Wallis, in Kent and Bristol.

All these companies originated within the Beazer empire. In addition, Kier has taken on the Dudley Coles construction group, once a part of ARC, which was acquired by Hanson when it bought Consolidated Goldfields in 1989.

Together, these businesses achieved a pre-tax profit of £8 million in the year to June 1991 from net assets of £41 million.

Kier Group has 1,800 salaried staff who will be offered the chance to participate in the Esop, along with any of the 1,600 hourly paid workers who have been with the group for more than two years.

The Esop will hold 45 per cent of the shares, worth £1.2 million. A similar sum has been raised by 73 senior managers, led by Colin Busby, chairman and chief executive. They will also share 45 per cent.

The remaining 10 per cent of the equity will be held by Hanson. Hanson has received £43 million in cash from the company, along with £9.8 million of 5 per cent loan stock.

The strength of Kier's cash flow has enabled it to start life with £50 million on deposit.



Carrying it off: Tiphook's Robert Montague says the trailer rental group has shown its resilience in recession. Pre-tax profits rose from an adjusted £70.4 million to £86.4 million in the year ended April. The final is 12.9p (10.3p), making 17.3p (13.8p). *Tempus*, page 24

Union Discount warns of losses

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

UNION Discount, the stricken discount house, has warned shareholders that it made fresh losses of up to £15 million in the first half of the year and will not pay an interim dividend.

Shares in Union plunged 51p to only 64p when the warning was released. Analysts previously believed that Union was beginning to recover after record losses of £23.6 million last year.

In December 1990, Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, sold a 28 per cent stake in the firm at \$550p a share.

The firm also announced that it had sold Herald Financial Services, a loss-making dental equipment leasing and hire purchase business, to Schroder Leasing for £18.2 million. The sale will reduce the group's debts but Union has been forced to suffer a £770,000 loss on closing out interest-rate swap contracts on Herald's loan book.

George Bhunden, Union's new chief executive, said the

disposal was part of continuing rationalisation and that, in future, Union would concentrate on its core money-market trading, gifts and equity market-making and asset management. The firm is now looking at the future of Sabre, its troubled leasing business, which has caused the bulk of the losses and may sell it or wind it down.

Union blamed the new losses on further provisions against Sabre, and an investment in a new computer system, which the firm has now written off. Union also said the costs of the discount house were "excessive" and that it was making exceptional provisions to reduce the scale of the operations.

Last year, Union paid an interim dividend of 15.3p but was forced to slash its final dividend from 23p to 2p because of the record losses.

Mr Bhunden said: "This is the second piece of bad news shareholders have had in six months and it is my intention it will be the last."

Decline in diamond sales halted

BY COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

SALES of rough gem diamonds by De Beers Central Selling Organisation marketing arm fell by 14.3 per cent to \$1.78 billion in the six months to end-June.

By comparison with CSO diamond sales in the second half of last year, the latest figures show a 3 per cent fall on \$1.84 billion.

The CSO, which handles 80 per cent of worldwide rough diamond sales, said yesterday it viewed the first-half 1992 figures as "satisfactory" given the background of difficult trading conditions.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of De Beers, said in London last week that the most recent "sights" at which rough diamonds are sold had showed some signs of im-

provement over the initial 1992 sights when the CSO had restricted sales.

The CSO added yesterday that world economies were, in general, still quiet, although there are encouraging signs from the American retail market. Roger Van Eeghen, a spokesman for De Beers, cautioned that it is difficult to try to predict the outcome for rough diamond sales in the second half. "The market would be influenced by the run-up to, and outcome of, the American presidential election, which could determine buying patterns for Christmas and also by economic conditions in Japan."

The CSO said it was still buying rough diamonds that appear to have been smuggled

out of Angola and offered for sale in Antwerp, and that the incidence of such diamond smuggling continued to be of concern. De Beers plans to spend \$164 million in advertising diamonds this year, with greater marketing attention being given to Europe than previously.

The CSO said that stock levels in the cutting centres were at satisfactory levels, and that bank borrowings by the diamond trade were also at reasonable levels. This means, the CSO said, that when the market picks up, full advantage can be taken quickly of increased demand.

The CSO last raised the price of rough diamonds by an average 5.5 per cent in March 1990.

TT wants to merge with AB Electronic

BY JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in TT Group, the acquisitive industrial holding company, slipped 7p to 215p on the news that it is seeking a merger with AB Electronic Products, an electronic components manufacturer based in Glamorgan.

The directors of AB, which saw its shares rise 12p to 90p on the news, said that TT had taken a 6.35 per cent stake in the company and was proposing a merger. They are seeking clarification of TT's intentions and consulting NM Rothschild, AB's financial adviser.

The board of AB recently spelled out a strategy for the development of its core businesses and said that it was looking for partners which "can add momentum towards the achievement of that strategy". Talks with TT will centre on this point.

Analysts have been expecting TT to make a move since it

unveiled a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for last year, but the choice of AB has taken them by surprise.

Potential targets included M.I. Holdings, the aerospace, cargo-handling and electronic components company, in which TT holds a 7.5 per cent stake. It also holds a 5 per cent stake in Renold, the power transmission equipment manufacturer. Past acquisitions include United Packaging, Beaton Clark and Crystalate Holdings.

The company has been left with a 38 per cent holding in Magnetics Materials after failing to gain full control with a bid that lapsed last July. AB will issue a further announcement in due course.

AB reported a pre-tax loss of £3.95 million for the six months to December 31 and gave a warning that it would remain in the red during the second half.

Evode sticks on payout

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

EVODE Group, the adhesives and industrial coatings maker, believes it has come to grips with its cost base, but says in the present economic climate it has to remain cautious about overall prospects.

Andrew Simon, chairman, says pre-tax profits in the six months ended March 28 rose from £3 million to £3.8 million, helped by a marginally improved operating profit and by a 16.2 per cent reduction in financing costs. On a like-for-like basis, interim sales rose by 5 per cent to £141.9 million.

Evode has completed its disposal programme, further tightened costs and cash controls, and increased its market share. The group is now down to three core businesses.

The interim dividend is held at 1.78p a share, and fully diluted half-time net earnings rose from 1.3p to 1.9p a share.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

East Midlands power chief's pay doubled

JOHN Harris, chairman of East Midlands Electricity, had a 102 per cent pay rise in the year ending March 31, according to figures released yesterday. He earned £230,969, compared with £114,476 the previous year. He received £67,000 before the company was privatised in December 1990.

Mr Harris's salary, disclosed in the company's annual report, could fuel criticism of big wage increases and massive profits in the power industry. "It is a staggering increase," said Professor Basil Weedon, chairman of the East Midlands Region Consumer Committee. Last month, East Midlands reported a 41 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year to end-March. The company, first of the 12 regional companies to announce results, made £150 million.

Platinum turns round

PLATINUM, the pen maker and housewares group, benefited from substantial reorganisation in the year ended March 31, and swung from a previous £1.34 million pre-tax loss into a £405,000 pre-tax profit in its 1992 financial year. But there is, again, no dividend. Ivy Products was bought from the receivers in December, and through relocating Ivy a significant reduction in overheads has been achieved. In March, Platinum placed 41 million new shares raising £1.5 million net, and has since redeemed its preference shares and reorganised its capital.

Waterford to cut jobs

WATERFORD Crystal wants to axe 525 jobs and cut pay by up to 25 per cent in an effort to return to profit. Paddy Galvin, chief executive, told unions of the glassmaker's plans at the weekend. The unions promptly called for a meeting with Brian Cowen, the Irish labour minister, and urged the government to nationalise Waterford. The luxury crystal and china firm Waterford Wedgwood cut pre-tax losses to £12.7 million (£2.5 million) from £121.4 million in the year ending December 31 but gave a warning that the international recession was still hitting hard.

AG Barr sparkles

AG BARR, the soft drinks manufacturer based in Glasgow, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.17 million to £2.64 million in the six months to April 25. Turnover rose 3.1 per cent to £42.4 million (£41.1 million). Earnings per share were 9.09p (4.37p). There is an interim dividend of 1.75p (1.0833p). The company, which makes the Irm-Bru and Tiger brands, attributed the higher profits to more efficient production and distribution arrangements. A factory in Edinburgh was closed in February, and a depot in Leicester in January.

Reliance secures rise

SHARES in Reliance Security Group rose 25p to 381p after the security services company reported an increase in pre-tax profits from £3.25 million to £3.42 million in the year to May 1. Earnings rose from 19.4p a share to 20.5p. The final dividend is increased from 6.2p a share to 6.8p, making 9p for the year (8.4p). Profits rose despite a £906,000 loss incurred in extending activities into electronic security. The company was "cautiously optimistic" there would be continued growth this year.

City Site back in black

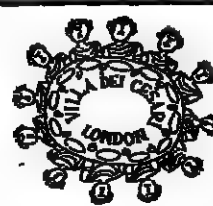
CITY Site Estates, the Glasgow property company run by Louis Goodman, has reported a modest return to profits with pre-tax profits of £190,000 for the six months to end-March, compared with losses of almost £2 million in the comparable period of the year before. The profits were struck despite a 29 per cent increase in interest payable to £4.9 million. Net rental income rose 27 per cent to £5.4 million. The company is not paying an interim dividend (0.96p) but hopes to recommence dividend payments at the "earliest possible date".

New chief at Wm Hill

BRENT Walker Group, the leisure and property company, said Ken Scobie is to take over from Lord Kintderley as chairman of William Hill Group, the group's betting shop subsidiary. Lord Kintderley has said he will retire as chairman of William Hill and Brent Walker at the group's annual meeting later this month. Mr Scobie will remain deputy chairman and chief executive of Brent Walker, and a new chairman will be announced at the meeting.

NS bond goes on sale

THE first National Savings product aimed at basic rate taxpayers goes on sale today. The FIRST Option Bond, announced in the Budget, will pay 7.75 per cent after basic rate tax has been deducted on £1,000 or more and 8.05 per cent on £20,000 or more. The rates, while higher than those offered by most building societies on comparable accounts, were lower than expected for the one-year bond. This could be a sign of lower interest rates soon.



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Stunted Siemens looks east for growth

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN DRESDEN

SIEMENS, the electronic group and bellwether of the German economy, is increasingly relying on the eastern part of the country for growth amid signs of a slowdown in the west and continued depression elsewhere in Europe.

Karlheinz Kaske, outgoing president of Siemens, said yesterday that reunification had saved Germany from recession and he launched a vigorous defence of its costs, estimated this year to be around DM180 billion. Herr Kaske has a special interest in this process as Siemens is probably the greatest commercial beneficiary of reunification.

Addressing a news conference, Herr Kaske said: "Without reunification Germany would have suffered two years of recession. And I ask myself whether the extra gross national product generated does not partially compensate for the costs of unification." He said the DM60 billion invested in modernising the East German telephone network would lead to a rise in the number of

telephone calls and could, within years, prove to be a profitable investment.

Siemens, which is involved in virtually every sector of electronics and electro-mechanics, benefits at every stage in the process of rebuilding eastern Germany. The process of regeneration begins with the refurbishment of the telecommunications network, continues with energy generation and distribution and the building of the general infrastructure, especially transport and health.

For the current financial year, which ends in September, Siemens expects a 5 per cent increase in new orders, a sharp fall from the previous year's record of more than 20 per cent. That record was partially the result of consolidation, including the acquisition of Britain's Plessey. The declining growth is exemplified by the fact that eastern Germany accounts for almost half the increase. The remaining growth in orders, less than 3 per cent, is below inflation and therefore negative in real terms. The

company's most difficult area of activity remains its information-technology division. Siemens-Nixdorf Informations-systeme (SNI), formed after the merger with Nixdorf, Siemens admits to having underestimated the difficulties of the computer market. The company will have to cope with a fall in sale prices of DM700 million while costs will go up by DM500 million. So the company will need to achieve improvements in efficiency of at least DM1.2 billion in order to be as badly off as last year. Losses are expected to be cut this year but there is no sign of when break-even will come.

Siemens also hopes to benefit from this week's G7 summit in Munich, which may agree on a package to modernise Russia's nuclear power stations. Heinrich von Pierer, who will succeed Herr Kaske in October, says: "If you consider that six years after Chernobyl nothing much has happened, then this is surely worrying."



Kaske: reunification saved Germany from recession

EUROPEAN VIEW

Testing the water for a rate cut

Speculation about a cut in British interest rates is likely to intensify after the tentative signal sent by the Bank of England to the money markets last Friday. Government officials are not ruling out the possibility of Britain, perhaps along with France, edging down interest rates, especially if there are indications that the Bundesbank could start relaxing its policies within the next few months.

The Bank of England's monetary operations on Friday were probably intended to test market reaction to a possible rate cut, rather than signal that a decision has been made. The Bank was inscrutable in its market operations yesterday, which were pointedly neutral. But, as in the past, the authorities will watch for selling pressure on sterling, its movements within the ERM grid and even the sterling/dollar exchange rate, which is now well placed to absorb a British interest rate cut. The Bank would prefer money market and futures rates to start discounting a cut in interest rates before making an official move.

If the markets react calmly, the Bank could send a clearer signal within the next week or two. A rate cut of only a quarter of a point would be most likely, bringing Britain's short-term interest rates down to the same level as Germany's for the first time in more than a decade. Treasury and Bank officials do not consider sterling's bottom-ranking position in the ERM an insuperable barrier. The Treasury has never accepted sterling must be near its ERM midpoint, before cutting interest rates.

Officials have repeatedly said that until the narrow band is formally introduced, Britain can take advantage of sterling's full 6 per cent range around the mark. However, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is determined to avoid any move that might weaken the credibility of his ERM commitment.

Officials say that, with the general election out of the way, he would be ready to raise interest rates if the foreign exchange market reaction to any future cut were unexpectedly adverse.

Beating BCCI

A year and a day after the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision has given worldwide regulators the tools to ensure that a similar fraud is never perpetrated again. The four-point "minimum standards proposal" is the most significant document to emerge from Basle since the capital convergence agreement in 1988. The terms should establish a series of checks and balances to ensure that incompetent regulators and irregular institutions are ruled offside.

The agreement would have called a halt to BCCI's misadventures years ago. The first clause requires every international bank to have a home-country authority that can regulate the entire group. BCCI intentionally avoided this by using dual registration in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, neither of which had the resources to monitor the group. The other clauses would have allowed countries like Britain to have barred BCCI from its borders until it submitted to effective regulation. If the bank had refused, it would never have been able to spread across more than 70 countries. If BCCI had accepted, regulators could have spotted irregularities long before 1991.

Fine words are worthless, however, unless regulators are given the resources to exercise them. Effective regulation is still the exception rather than the rule in most countries, particularly in some offshore centres. Regulators like the Federal Reserve and the Bank of England must now take the lead in promoting their skills around the world and reminding others of the perils of ignorance.

Seeking a sacrificial Euro-lamb for an unpopular competition policy

Wolfgang Münchau looks at ways to make competition policy more acceptable and effective in the face of opposition from nation states

Denmark's success in reminding the world of its place on the map will probably not change the course of European history. Yet, in the short term, the Danish vote against the Maastricht treaty will require the rest of the European Community to take remedial action. Since the treaty cannot be renegotiated, more creative measures may be needed. A sacrificial Euro-lamb, a policy area that can be safely "de-Europeanised" to show the world what the community means when it says "subsidiarity", may be the answer.

Sir Leon Brittan and his competition directorate would be ideal candidates for such an approach, and this not only because of the Danish referendum.

Sir Leon is apparently not entirely opposed to the sacrificial lamb idea, though he may not agree to serve as such and would certainly not agree to more extreme variants of increased subsidiarity that include the closure of his own department. Hardly anyone would wholeheartedly applaud EC competition policy as it stands. Competition hawks, mainly the British and the Germans, find European competition policy too soft and politically influenced. Last week, Britain criticised the decision to allow a Fr6.7 billion French government aid scheme for Bull, the French state-owned computer maker. Michael Heseltine, who is not one of Sir Leon's closest friends, has criticised the decision as "very disappointing", and fears that it may lead to a "subsidy race" in the European computer industry.

The doves feel that the European competition policy is far too strict, designed to prevent what they would regard as otherwise sensible policies, such as subsidising a company in difficulties. Sir Leon has had a series of run-ins with the French government over industrial policy, though it should not be forgotten that French industrial dirigisme is the result of a democratic process. The appointment of a European Commissioner is much less so. And that is part of the problem. Between the extreme arguments expounded by the hawks and the doves, there exists a good case for handing back some EC powers to national governments, though only in certain circumstances and under tight rules.

This is not an argument against EC competition policy, the principles of which remain worthy of support. Indeed, one could even argue that there exists hardly a policy area better suited for Euro-federalism than this



Michael Heseltine: given subsidy race warning



Sir Leon Brittan: fighting France on subsidies

one. From next year onwards, the EC will form a single market in which goods, services and people can move, theoretically at least, unhindered across borders. Yet, if one changes from a national to a European market, then by implication one would need to accept the change from a national to a European market policeman. My criticism is that European competition policy is not working properly, and that the institutional set-up is flawed.

The organisation of the two-year-old EC regime on mergers and takeovers is a typical Franco-German fudge. The institutional procedures are based on Germany's cartel law, especially the dual procedure whereby the commission decides in a one-month preliminary investigation whether to allow the matter to progress to a four-month scrutiny. French dirigisme is represented in the final stage, in that the decision making process is secret and that the politicians, here the full commission,

and not the bureaucrats, have the final say. For example, when Sir Leon's department tried to persuade fellow commissioners to block the takeover of de Havilland, he had to overcome strong opposing pressures from fellow commissioners. On that occasion he won, but there have been debates over state-aid, like subsidies to Thomson SA, the electronics group, in which Sir Leon was outvoted by his fellow commissioners.

The lack of independent decision lies at the heart of the problem, and this is why competition policy works well in Britain and Germany, and it works far less satisfactorily in Brussels. This is not the commission's fault but has something to do with the lack of European consensus over competition policy.

This lack of consensus prevents the adoption of what must surely be the most open and effective system: an independent cartel office, which

makes its findings public. Under an independent system, politicians, in this case the commission, would usually still be able to override the bureaucrats and technocrats, on national interest grounds for example, but the whole process would take place in the public arena.

Independent institutions, such as Britain's Monopolies and Mergers Commission, or Germany's cartel office, and indeed the Bundesbank, exist and succeed precisely because they enjoy public support. Their role is to implement pre-determined policies, but not to create these policies themselves. In the absence of such national consensus, their task is no longer technical, and becomes political. If one of Europe's large nations believes in dirigisme and another one in the invisible hand of the free market and the need for healthy competition, then there exists no policy capable of satisfying both. Hence, while European competition policy needs to be independent to be

truly effective, it cannot be independent because of these fundamental disagreements.

Sir Leon would say that the present regime is the best that could have been hoped for in the circumstances. But by yielding to the principles of subsidiarity, the effectiveness and certainly the reputation of European competition policy may be improved.

In the field of mergers and takeovers, subsidiarity can be established quite easily, even without the need to change existing regulations. Under the present regime, the commission investigates European mergers if, among other conditions, the joint turnover of the two companies is more than Ecus5 billion (£3.5 billion). Even if a bid fulfils these criteria, national merger authorities can ask the commission for permission to investigate the cases themselves. The commission may, but need not, agree. Normally, it does not.

The German cartel office has had ample experience with commission intransigence. It has asked the commission for the right to look at predominantly German cases three times. Each time, the answer was no. Wolfgang Karne, who retired as the cartel office's president last week, suggested recently that the power of investigation should shift back to the national authority, which in turn would undertake to stick to European merger rules and regulations. The final decision would, of course, be open to challenge in the European Court. This way, we would retain a common competition policy. Brussels would no longer "impose" a decision. It would also mean less political meddling in countries like Germany or Britain; yet there will always be a procedure that would allow either the commission or governments to challenge decisions.

This procedure may need some modifications to work properly, and it does not work for state aid, since one could not expect a government to investigate itself. But for mergers and acquisitions, subsidiarity and co-operation with national authorities is the way forward.

Before the Danish referendum, the talk in Brussels was to lower the threshold above which the commission investigates mergers and takeovers from 5 billion ecus to 3 billion ecus, which would have amounted to a shift in the number of cartel investigations from nations to Brussels. The lowering of these thresholds is no longer on the agenda, and Brussels expects to hand the powers back to nations. The shift may not be overly significant. And once the Danes change their minds — and I have no doubt they will — the situation may reverse once again, and the spectre of a 3 billion-ecus threshold could re-emerge. In the meantime, it is worth recognising that the success of a competition policy is not related to the size of the cartel office's headquarters and the number of its staff, but to the quality of its work. A pinch of subsidiarity might help.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Why British Coal should be privatised in one lump

From Mr Jim Lester, MP
Sir, As one of a number of MPs with coal-mining operations in their constituencies, I was interested by the exchange of views on the subject of coal privatisation between John Meade of the British Association of Colliery Management and Colin Robinson of the Institute of Economic Affairs in your pages.

I believe John Meade's article came closer to the truth. In particular, he is right to say that the coal industry does not suffer from a lack of competition. The reason British Coal is having to retrench so rapidly is precisely because the competition to supply fuel to the two main electricity generators is so great.

To be fair to Colin Robinson, he largely concedes this point when he says that the domination of the electricity market by two large generators has left the coal industry in difficulties. He also admits that the debate over whether the generators should be building gas-fired power stations would not be taking

place if the over-supplied electricity market was truly competitive, since the electricity produced from gas will actually cost more than from existing coal-fired power stations.

Where he goes wrong is in denying his own logic by saying that British Coal should nonetheless be broken up into several parts. As a solution to the excessive market power of the generators, he suggests a break-up of the National Power/PowerGen duopoly. This might seem plausible enough, but the fact is that the government has made no such commitment. No-one seriously believes that there is any possibility of such a course of action being pursued in time to coincide with the privatisation of British Coal.

It follows that, in the short term at least, the coal industry would find itself in an even weaker bargaining position vis-à-vis the generators than it does already if his advice was followed. It is doubtful that a privatised industry would survive for long in such an

A class of his own

From Mr David Wickens
Sir, Your banking correspondent (Business, July 2) says that the "Governor wants better training". I would not venture to agree or disagree with that sentiment.

If the need is great I am sure that the Department of Education could discover a suitable day-release course or, if the Bank requires his presence every day, then suitable night classes for the Governor could be found.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WICKENS,
Norfolk House,
62 London Road,
Newark, Notts.

Boots needs remedy

From Mr G. M. Armittage
Sir, The recently published annual report of The Boots Company underlines the concern many shareholders have about the continuing marked increase in the remuneration of their directors, often on a scale which bears no relation to trading performance.

In Boots's case there is only a small increase in profit before tax in the past year (7 per cent), and that due to a lower interest charge rather than from improved trading, and in the past two years pre-tax profit has fallen.

That has not stopped the board from increasing its re-

muneration by 55 per cent for the past year, including a 66 per cent increase for the chief executive. Much of this is due to a bonus, but it seems to be a simple shareholder inconvertible that a bonus should be paid in these circumstances.

The wider use of board remuneration committees seems to have done more harm than good, as unrealistic increases continue but with the added "sanctity" of having been blessed by a board committee. Nevertheless a serious problem remains and there is no less an urgency for a remedy.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. ARMITTAGE,
99 Overstrand Road,
Cromer, Norfolk.

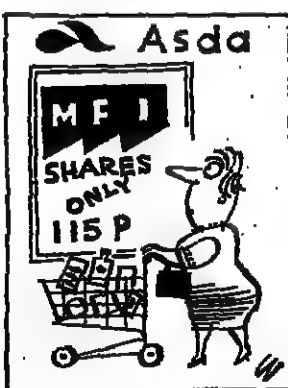
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Big guns out for match at HAC

THE annual cricket match between Lloyd's and the Stock Exchange, dating back to 1922, comes round again tomorrow at its now well-established venue, the Honourable Artillery Company in City Road. The event is sponsored by chartered accountant Robson Rhodes, whose old offices used to overlook the ground, the original idea being that people could wander over from the City at lunchtime or in the evening to catch up on play. Unfortunately, after a bomb at the HAC in June 1990, security is now tighter but spectators are welcome by prior arrangement. Bertie Brazier of Higgins Marchant Brazier, chairman of the Lloyd's cricket club, says anyone carrying a Lloyd's pass will be admitted while Stock Exchange members can contact Mark Felton, secretary of the SE cricket club, at Kleinwort Benson if they wish to attend. The SE is hoping to win the trophy, which it won last year and is fielding a team including Charles Rowe of County NatWest, ex-Kent and Glamorgan, Andrew Miller of BZW who has played for Oxford University and Middlesex, and Will Robins of Williams de Broe, whose grandfather Walter Robins captained England and whose father played for Middlesex.

Female factor

DESPITE the wholesale restructuring of the Asda board in the last nine months chair-



man Patrick Gillam says his biggest challenge now is finding a woman non-executive director. Asda has been seeking a suitable candidate since September and as 80 per cent of its customers are women, Asda hopes to appoint one before the notices of the annual meeting go out in August.

Foxed? I'll fax

IF YOU are tired of giving directions by telephone on how people can find you, Jeremy Thomas, a director of DIS, the information services firm, has the answer. Sick of explaining how to find his offices "in the middle of nowhere in deepest Wiltshire" Thomas has invented a faxmap. For £199 he provides a map with road instructions, local landmarks, hotel information, parking details, and all with Ordnance Survey copyright paid. The next time someone asks how to find you, you give them your faxmap number and the map arrives on their fax. Asked why people do not simply fax a map themselves, Thomas says providing a map with copy-

right clearance would be too much trouble for many. So far, he has been right: the four weeks he has more than 30 customers including a City law firm with complicated parking and a BMW dealer in Wiltshire. "People say it's much easier to find us now — and they arrive on time," he says.

Chemical reaction

WITH three months still to go before the start of Chay Blyth's British Steel Challenge round-the-world yacht race, a spate of "friendly" rivalry has already broken out between competing sponsors Courtaulds and Rhône Poulenc. On the day the Heath Group issued its Golden Guinea challenge via the City Diary, Sipko Huismans, Courtaulds chief executive, was entertaining a party of analysts and journalists on the Solent and responded with zeal to a "race you home" challenge from Rhône Poulenc, leaving the antagonists for dead. The victory left Huismans with a broad grin on his face after his unsuccessful attempts to have the Courtaulds name painted on the company's yacht in the face of opposition from Jean-Marc Bruel, president of Rhône Poulenc. Bruel insists on strict application of the rule that the race should have only one sponsor per sector, and says that Rhône Poulenc was the first chemical company to sign up. After his boat's defeat, Bruel is now less likely than ever to concede the point but Huismans, whose hatred of coming second is legendary, is unlikely to let the matter rest.

CAROL LEONARD

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 7 1992

Lack of support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 29. Dealings end July 10. Settlement day July 13. Settlement day July 20. Forward buyings are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your capital total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the prize procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
1	TSB	Banking	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
2	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
3	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
4	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
5	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
6	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
7	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
8	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
9	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
10	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
11	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
12	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
13	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
14	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
15	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
16	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
17	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
18	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
19	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
20	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
21	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
22	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
23	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
24	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
25	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
26	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
27	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
28	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
29	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
30	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
31	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
32	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
33	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
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35	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
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37	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
38	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
39	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
40	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
41	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
42	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
43	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5
44	Thames Valley	Education	100	112.5	4.3	25.5

Please take into account any minor signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily share for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Mrs. Pauline Greene, of Frinton, Essex, was the winner of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

1992 High Low Company Price Div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	Div	%	P/E
1	TSB	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
2	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
3	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
4	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
5	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
6	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
7	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
8	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
9	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
10	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
11	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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13	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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17	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
18	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
19	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
20	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
21	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
22	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
23	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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26	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
27	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
28	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
29	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
30	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
31	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
32	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
33	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
34	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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39	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
40	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
41	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
42	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
43	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
44	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Div	%	P/E
1	TSB	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
2	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
3	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
4	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
5	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
6	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
7	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
8	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
9	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
10	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
11	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
12	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
13	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
14	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
15	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
16	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
17	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
18	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
19	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
20	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
21	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
22	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
23	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
24	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
25	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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41	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
42	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
43	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
44	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Div	%	P/E
1	TSB	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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3	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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6	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
7	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
8	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
9	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
10	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
11	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
12	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
13	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
14	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
15	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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17	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
18	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
19	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
20	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
21	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
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23	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
24	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
25	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
26	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
27	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
28	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
29	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
30	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
31	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
32	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
33	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
34	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
35	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
36	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
37	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
38	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
39	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
40	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
41	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
42	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
43	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5
44	Thames Valley	112.5	4.3	4.3	25.5

ELECTRICITY

75	Manley	112	-2	6.3	79.3	1.1
76	Manitoba	112	-2	6.3	79.3	1.1
77	Manitoba	112	-2	6.3	79.3	1.1
78	Manitoba	112	-2	6.3	79.3	1.1
79	Manitoba	112	-2	6.3	79.3	1.1
80	Manitoba	112	-2	6.3	79.3	1.1
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LAW TIMES

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Solicitors under siege

Gillian Fazan
says not all sole
practitioners are
Maxwells and
suggests steps
to beat fraud

As a woman solicitor working from home and as a sole practitioner, probably earning considerably less than £15,000 this year, though, of course, with much larger gross fees, I feel that Patrick Stevens's article (Law Times, June 23) was largely aimed at me. I have a husband in the Royal Navy who is often absent, and four young children growing rapidly to independence. Mr Stevens seems to wish my early professional demise.

I was admitted 14 years ago and am qualified to practise in England and Wales and in Hong Kong. Four years ago I set up on my own and now have a good general practice in a busy market town in Devon. I have done matrimonial work and conveyancing and assisted in complex company and commercial transactions. My experience is broader and more varied than most, a quality no longer prized in big City firms, but extremely useful in a country practice.

The 3,800 sole practitioners in England and Wales have an important role. Our fees are generally lower than those of large partnerships and we do not shun the less profitable areas such as matrimonial and legal aid work.

We offer our services in fair weather and foul, and act as a clearing house, passing work to bigger firms if specialists are required.

I am fortunate in having long and friendly associations with members of the local Bar, to whom I often defer. I can also rely on the support of other solicitors, who like myself, and often for similar reasons, have become sole practitioners, but with different expertise, complementary to mine.

Mr Stevens suggests that relatively few sole practitioners specialise in legal aid work, but all the five I personally know do some, providing a service that large firms are



A part to play: Gillian Fazan, at home with her daughter Isabel, says her wide experience is invaluable in a country practice

reluctant to shoulder. Such work amounts to a free loan of our legal services and the overheads of our offices to the state, and like most legal aid practitioners I am regularly owed hundreds of pounds for long periods for work that I believe I have done honestly and well. How many large partnerships are still prepared to give the £5 fixed fee interviews that the Citizens Advice Bureau regularly refer to me?

The one-quarter of sole practitioners who have gross fees of less than £15,000 a year do not sound to me like a community able to perpetrate large-scale fraud or generate one of those "millions missing" headlines. Mr Stevens, however, alleges that sole practitioners are just so many Robert Maxwells.

Whatever Mr Maxwell did in his lifetime, bankers, directors and others may have conspired at, colluded in or acquiesced to or were merely reckless towards what was going on. What were the corporate lawyers doing?

It would be inappropriate for the big City solicitors, who are widely regarded as the sharks of our profession, to try

to occupy moral high ground. They eagerly offered their services to 1980s entrepreneurs who turned out to be fraudsters and made millions constructing impenetrable company labyrinths, drafting banking agreements, preparing takeovers, mergers, share issues and stock market listings now all so useless. And in famine, like vultures, they feast on the corpses.

Recently The Times published a league table of earnings in some of the leading law firms doing corporate business. In more than ten firms the senior partners paid themselves more than £100,000 a year. The highest-paid received more than £350,000.

Yet I am every bit the equal of one of those partners. I pay my Law Society indemnity insurance to guard against professional negligence just the same, and now I am asked to pay into the compensation fund on the same flat rate. For the £15,000 fee-earner this is 6.3 per cent of gross earnings, compared with less than 1 per cent for somebody receiving

£100,000. I think I am paying more than my fair share to make up for my colleagues' wickedness or incompetence.

I do not deny that sole practitioners have been responsible for a disproportionate number of frauds. However, rather than wish the demise of anybody or any group professionally or personally, let us address the causes of dishonesty and incompetence.

I have two suggestions. The first is better financial training for solicitors. I received almost none, except a two-week crash course before an accounts examination and on qualification a slim volume on the professional conduct of solicitors. Few solicitors have training in business finance or financial management. The secrets of partnership finance are as closely guarded as those of a medieval guild and just as arcane. I know of quite senior non-equity partners being asked to leave when partnership finance is discussed.

Given the wealth of rules that exist, a solicitor setting up on his own is highly likely to get into a muddle. That is why

I employ an accountant to check my client account balances, formerly every three months, now every month.

The second suggestion concerns flat-rate contributions to top up the compensation fund. Mr Stevens wants those guilty by association to foot the bill. I am all in favour of separating the sheep from the goats. I should like to start by breaking the Law Society's monopoly in this area. It may not be possible to insure against one's own criminality, but groups of lawyers should be allowed to take out an insurance bond. The insurer would want to examine the actuarial risk. The actuary might find that certain groups, including some among the 3,500 sole practitioners as well as some partnerships with flashy cars, should pay higher premiums for their greater risk.

Peculiarly English — and harder to find

"THE JP is cheap, he is pure, he is capable but he is doomed. He is to be sacrificed to a theory on the altar of the spirit of the age." This observation was made by a historian called Maitland in the 19th century when justices of the peace were relieved of their administrative duties.

Since that time, however, the judicial responsibilities of justices of the peace have increased considerably.

Today, "the great unpaid", of whom there are about 30,000, grapple with ever more complex legislation and procedures and preside over hundreds of courts every working day, dealing with 98 per cent of the criminal cases heard every year.

To outsiders, this is the strangest of systems, consisting as it does of ordinary people with no legal qualifications whatever. Yet in its peculiarly English fashion, dating back to 1327, it works extremely well. And its justification is based largely on the relationship between justices and their legally qualified clerks. Under this arrangement the justices bear sole responsibility for findings of fact while the clerk of the court advises on matters of law and the extent of judicial powers.

In fact, it appears that there are fewer complaints against the decisions of JPs than against those in the superior courts. Lord Hailsham, when he was the Lord Chancellor, pointed out: "I believe the magistracy to be the most popular branch of the judicial system except perhaps trial by jury." Popular or not, the lay magistracy remains something of a mystery to most people. Where do lay magistrates come from and how do they become appointed?

Until now, the committees that advise the Lord Chancellor on such appointments have been able to keep the names of their members secret. By December 31 this year, however, a published list of members will be compulsory. If this new spirit of openness, along with the national advertising for justices, which has been going on since 1985, encourages more ordinary people to apply, it will do nothing but good.

The public image of justices, however, remains that of the middle-aged, middle-class do-gooder who has nothing better to do than sit in judgment on others. That the image is far from the reality seems to make little difference.

In more than 15 years on the bench, I have

yet to see a be-hatted lady or a blimpish colonel. Colleagues range from teachers and doctors to builders and shop-floor workers. There are academics and social workers.

Yet there are still too many like me who are middle-aged and middle-class who can find the time, not only for court sittings, but also for intensive training, compulsory since 1966, and the necessary committee work.

Getting time off work is the main problem. Men between 35 and 45 are thin on the ground but these are the people whose companies look at them sideways if they want time off for such voluntary work. My own company, a newspaper, allowed me the time to sit on the basis that, as the editor put it, "nobody ever learnt anything sitting on their backside in a newspaper office."

A Post Office worker I knew who had to give up part of his holidays to fulfil the 20 days a year compulsory for justices in inner London was not so lucky.

There is a definite shortage of people aged 35 to 45 and those from ethnic communities and the shop-floor," says Joyce Rose, the chairman of the Magistrates' Association. "And the employment situation makes it more and more difficult as employers become stricter about allowing time for sittings."

Despite the difficulties, becoming a magistrate remains surprisingly popular, and some areas even have waiting lists. Between January 1 and May 15 this year, there were 551 resignations from the bench but 701 appointments. So what is needed to be a JP? Common sense is reckoned to be a vital quality plus a knowledge and understanding of the community in which the magistrate lives.

I consider that patience is also essential. "You need the ability to assess evidence and make fair and just decisions," says Mrs Rose, adding the famous quotation from the oath all magistrates must swear, "without fear or favour, affection or ill will."

It is not just hard work or full of sadness, either, although there is plenty of that. I once asked the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate for an example of the light relief that comes to any bench.

Sir David Hopkin quoted a comment from one of the regular drunks at Bow Street. On being given a lenient sentence, he declared: "Thank you, gov. You're a gent. There are not many of us left."

● The author is the chairman of a family proceedings court in inner London.



BRIEF

PAULA DAVIES

The new traffic act is tougher on offenders but demands changed attitudes

Driving matters more than excuses

THE Road Traffic Act 1991, which took effect last Wednesday, has a particular theme. Instead of worrying about the defendant's state of mind, it concentrates on the state of his driving. The troublesome offence of reckless driving, for example, is replaced by the more straightforward "dangerous driving".

There is a new offence of causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs. The seriousness is reflected in the fact that it must be tried before a judge and jury and the maximum penalty is five years' jail, an unlimited fine and an obligation

to ban for at least two years. Although aimed primarily at alcohol-related offences, the charge will cover drivers who are unfit through drugs or any physical condition or fail to provide a specimen.

For the law to be effective, we must change attitudes. In other areas drunkenness affords no defence and little mitigation. Consider the drunk who smashes a glass in a friend's face. If he was very drunk, the prosecution may accept that he did not intend grievous bodily harm but even the lesser offence of malicious wounding puts him in jail.

Dr Peter North, in his Road

Traffic Review, says penalties rarely try to improve the aspect of conduct that has brought the offender to court. Disqualification removes an offender from the road but allows him to return with his road skill impaired by lack of practice. Under the Act, the court may order an offender to remain banned unless he has passed a new intensive test. In an ordinary disqualification, a motorist can blame the court, but a driver who cannot pass the test has the added embarrassment of failing below the required standard.

As an experiment, a court may at its discretion cut a

drink driver's ban by up to 25 per cent if he wants to go on a drink-driving rehabilitation course and will pay for it.

Does the Act go far enough? The best deterrent is the certainty of detection, so perhaps the time has come to review the law on random breath tests. If the procedures are quick and courteous, what objection can there be? There is great incentive to save lives.

MARTYN ZEIDMAN

● The writer is a practising barrister and the author of A Short Guide to the Road Traffic Act 1991, published by Temple Lectures.

Rebellion threat

THE Law Society's annual meeting on Thursday could be lively. Sole practitioners, targeted in recent statistics showing the soaring costs of dishonesty claims against solicitors, are fighting back. One of the resolutions to boost their role is that sole practitioners should be a "special interest group of the Law Society". A second resolution says a sole practitioner "has a valuable contribution to make to the profession and the community" and "merits adequate representation on the Law Society Council".

The solicitors proposing this resolution say 79 per cent of the profession consists of firms with four or fewer partners, and sole practitioners make up 3,800 of the 54,000 solicitors with a practising certificate. Yet only 12 places on the council are occupied by those from firms with five or fewer partners. Small firms fear they should have a stronger voice and say the Law Society does not respect its sole practitioners. The council will welcome an opportunity to "consider an application by a representative body of sole practitioners" for recognition as a special interest group.

Meanwhile, the society may

INNS AND OUTS

have been over-optimistic in deciding that it could limit its levy to cover potential losses from fraud by solicitors to £20 million. One specialist solicitor says he alone has more than £20 million worth of claims about to go to the compensation fund.

Student power
WOULD you entrust a case in which you risk losing your home to a group of law students still several years away from qualifying? Hugh Brayne, the director of Newcastle Polytechnic's law clinic, says his students have not lost a case since changes to the solicitors' practice rules allowed them to start doing casework last year. In the latest Legal Action Group bulletin, Mr Brayne remarks on the benefits to his students of learning the law through practical work, particularly as both branches of the profession now require new entrants to have practical skills. The 54 clinic students are organised into "firms", each with about five live cases. They also oppose one another in simulated actions, and, Mr Brayne says, have been helped generously by local solicitors acting as consultants. The polytechnic held a conference on clinical legal education last month

and will make the clinic a compulsory part of its degree course next year.

Libel rush
GOOD news for libel lawyers: members of the public are much more likely than a few years ago to see a solicitor in the first instance rather than approach a newspaper direct. The finding emerges from a survey by the Guild of British Newspaper Editors covering



188 newspaper titles. Editors, however, seemed successful still at resolving most complaints without seeking legal advice. This was because the complaints often had no legal basis for action. Court reporting was still the main area for complaint, and as a result some papers had cut coverage. Many complaints result from ambiguities when wind-

ing-up orders are published. The press can be relieved that, despite a rise in complaints, only 13 titles, 7 per cent, received a libel writ in 1991, much the same as in the year before. Despite headline damages awards, the highest payout was £20,000.

Young victims
AMNESTY International knows of only seven countries retaining the death penalty for juveniles. Those with the most executions in the past decade are Iran, Iraq and, remarkably, the United States, which at present has about 30 juvenile offenders on death row in 12 states. Amnesty has found that many young people on death row are of below average intelligence and have backgrounds of poverty and abuse. Few can afford proper representation.

No jury
JUDGE Goodman writes that there is no jury in cases heard on appeal by the Court of Arches (Law Times, June 30). The court has five equal judges — the Dean of Arches, two clergymen and two communicant laymen with judicial experience. He also says that the Court of Ecclesiastical Causes Reserved is not made up of "clerical judges". The present court consists of two Court of Appeal judges and three who are or have been diocesan bishops.

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Discrimination against nationals lawful

Procurator Fiscal, Elgin v Wood and Another
Joined Cases C-251/90 and C-252/90

Before F. A. Schockweiler, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges G. F. Mancini, C. N. Kakouris, M. Diez de Velasco and J. L. Murray

Advocate General C. Tesauro
[Opinion January 23, 1992]
[Judgment May 7]

A condition attached to fishing licences which was intended to ensure that fishing activities could be monitored and to facilitate the prevention of fraud, failure to comply with was an offence, was not contrary to Community law because it applied solely to vessels flying the flag of the member state imposing the condition.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in answering questions submitted to it by Elgin Sheriff Court for a preliminary ruling pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

The defendants were the masters of British fishing vessels and were both British nationals resident in Buckie, Banffshire. They were prosecuted for having, on different dates, crossed in their vessels the line of longitude 4°W which separated ICES Area IV (North Sea) and VI (Rockall and West of Scotland) without first reporting that movement to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, thus breaching a condition of their licences.

Since March 1989 that condition had been inserted in licences granted to operators of British

vessels fishing for certain species subject to fishing quotas in accordance with the Community rules in force.

The condition enabled the United Kingdom authorities to monitor the quota system more effectively by preventing fish caught in one of those two areas from being declared against the British quota for the other area. Failure to comply constituted an offence punishable by a fine.

At their trials, the accused contended that the licence condition was contrary to article 7 of the EEC Treaty and to articles 2 and 3 of Regulation No 101/76, of January 19, 1976, laying down a common structural policy for the fishing industry (OJ 1976 L 20 p 19), since it applied only to vessels registered in the UK and not to vessels of other member states fishing for the same species in the same areas, and because its adoption had not been notified to the other member states and to the Commission.

The Sheriff Court of Grampian, Highland and Islands at Elgin stayed the proceedings and referred three questions to the Court.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held as follows:

Conditions attached to fishing licences
By its first question the national court essentially sought to ascertain whether article 7 of the EEC Treaty or article 2 of Council Regulation No 101/76 was to be interpreted as precluding a member state, which made access to its fishing quotas subject to the grant of a licence, from including in such a licence a provision requiring the

master of a vessel flying the flag of that state to report by radio his intention to cross from one ICES area to another, even though that condition did not apply to vessels flying the flag of other member states fishing for the same species in the same areas.

In the exercise of the powers ascribed to them by the relevant Community provisions the member states might make access to their fishing quotas by their vessels subject to a licensing system, and might attach certain conditions to those licences until such time as those conditions were governed exclusively by Community law and necessary for attaining the aim of the quotas: see Case C-216/87 *Regina v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Jaderow Ltd* (The Times January 19, 1990; [1989] ECR 4509).

The Community rules concerning the conservation of fishery resources did not preclude a condition such as that referred to by the national court since it was intended to ensure that fishing activities subject to quotas could be monitored and to facilitate the prevention of fraud in that area without being disproportionate to the objective pursued. Such a condition could not therefore be regarded as contrary to article 2(1) of Council Regulation No 101/76 because it applied solely to vessels flying the flag of the member state imposing the condition.

As to article 7 of the Treaty, according to the case-law of the Court, that article did not apply to any disparities in treatment or

distortions which might result for persons and undertakings subject to the jurisdiction of the Community from the application by a member state of measures that were stricter than those applied in the same sphere by other member states.

Requirement to notify measures
The second question referred to article 3 of Council Regulation No 101/76, which imposed a general requirement that member states should notify other member states and the Commission of any alterations which they intended to make to their fishery rules.

Article 2(2) of that regulation provided that the member states were to notify other member states and the Commission of the existing provisions concerning fishing in the maritime waters coming under their sovereignty or within their jurisdiction and not provisions which they intended to adopt.

It had therefore to be held that national measures were to be notified to the Commission, but not necessarily prior to their adoption.

Effect of failure to notify
By a supplementary question the sheriff court sought to determine whether failure to notify a national control measure, such as the condition described above, affected its validity even though it might in substance be compatible with Community law.

In view of the fact that the adoption of such a national measure was not made conditional on its prior notification to the Commission, the notification require-

ment in question had to be regarded as having been laid down for the purposes of information only.

Consequently, the absence of such notification did not affect the validity of a measure which satisfied the other criteria mentioned in the relevant provisions of Community law.

On those grounds, the Court (Sixth Chamber) ruled:

1 Article 7 of the EEC Treaty and article 2(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 101/76 were to be interpreted as meaning that a member state which made access to its fishing quotas subject to the grant of a licence was not precluded from including in such a licence a provision requiring the master of a vessel flying the flag of that state to report by radio his intention to cross from one ICES area to another, even though that condition did not apply to vessels flying the flag of other member states fishing for the same species in the same areas.

2 Under article 15 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 224/87 of July 23, 1987 establishing certain control measures for fishing activities (OJ 1987 L 207 p 1), member states were required to notify to the Commission a condition such as that described above which they put in licences which they granted to vessels flying their flag authorising such vessels to fish against their quotas.

3 Failure to notify a national control measure such as the condition described above did not affect its validity under Community law.

Luxembourg

Scots Law Report July 7 1992

Bigamy not a crime of violence

Gray v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Before Lord Weir
[Judgment May 13]

Where a bigamist procured sexual intercourse with a woman by purporting to marry her while representing himself as free to marry, he did not thereby commit a crime of violence against her in terms of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

Lord Weir, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, dismissing a petition by Jane Kilpatrick Gray for judicial review of a refusal by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to compensate her.

Mr Ronald Clancy for the petitioner; Mr Neil Brailsford for the respondents.

LORD WEIR said that paragraph 4(a) of the scheme provided that applications for compensation would be entertained where an applicant sustained personal injury directly attributable to a crime of violence.

In 1987 the petitioner had become friendly with a man named Watson. In December 1988 she had become engaged to him. She had understood from him that he was divorced.

After their engagement and before their marriage they had had sexual relations on one occasion. After the marriage in March 1989 they had had sexual intercourse on approximately six occasions.

In August 1989 Watson had disappeared. The petitioner had reported that to the police, who had subsequently advised her that they had found him living in England. His true name was Dolman and he was married and living with his wife and children.

As a result of that discovery the petitioner had required to attend her doctor for stress. If she had known that Watson had been married she would never have had a sexual relationship with him.

The board had found that no crime of violence had been committed.

The petitioner founded on section 2(b) of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 1976 which made it an offence to procure by false pretence or false representation any woman to have unlawful sexual intercourse. The false pretence had been that he was free to marry.

The crime had been perpetrated on each occasion when the parties had had intercourse after the pretended marriage ceremony. Moreover, she submitted that his conduct had been analogous to an indecent assault such as where a man had sexual relations with a sleeping woman (*HM Advocate v Swaine* (1853) 5 Tr 109).

The meaning of "crime of violence" was "very much a jury point": see *R v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte Webb* (1987) 1 QB 74, 79 where Lord Justice Lawton had said that

the board "will recognise a crime of violence when they hear about it, even though as a matter of semantics it may be difficult to produce a definition which is not too narrow or so wide as to produce absurd consequences..."

The argument for the petitioner in support of the existence of a crime of violence had depended upon looking at the effect of the behaviour rather than upon the nature of the crime.

However, the proper approach was to look at the nature of the crime and ask, were the acts of sexual intercourse crimes of violence? In his Lordship's opinion, the answer had to be in the negative.

The root cause of the injury suffered by the petitioner had been the commission of the crime of bigamy and the discovery by her of that. It was to that act that her injury was attributable. Neither that in itself nor the deception involved had contained any element of violence.

It might be said that an offence under section 2(b) had been committed but the offence had not been one attended with violence. Moreover, his Lordship was not prepared to affirm in the absence of authority that acts of intercourse in the context of a bigamous marriage constituted a crime as common law.

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Find the real cost of legal aid

John Appleby
bemoans the
government's
attitude to
a vital service

In the wake of the Legal Aid Board annual report last week, the National Audit Office comes out tomorrow with findings on the administration of legal aid. In another report this week, the Lord Chancellor's Department responds to criticisms of the criminal legal aid system.

Press coverage of the board's annual report was dominated by its concern about rising costs. Regrettably, the report takes a simplistic attitude to the subject with doubly unfortunate results: it gives an exaggerated impression of the problems of funding the legal aid scheme, and diverts attention from the board's very useful work in improving access to legal services, much of which has been blocked by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

For example, the board last year said it wanted to help law centres through joint funding with local authorities. That might have been crucial in persuading some local authorities to continue supporting local law centres. However, the government refuses to say when, or how much, money will be available.

Last year, too, the board announced it would issue a consultation paper on duty advice schemes in county courts, chiefly for defendants in housing repossession cases. The proposals would have enabled advice agencies as well as private practitioners to provide this service. This year, the board reports that the Lord Chancellor's Department has asked it not even to issue its proposals for consultation.

So the government is not content to refuse to make available the very small sums necessary to enable this service to be started — it is determined to stifle debate as well. The board's reputation for independence from the Lord Chancellor's Department would be much enhanced if it gave greater prominence to those aspects of its work.

What about the cost of the scheme? Last year, legal aid cost £760 million, including VAT, just less than £200 million more than in the previous year. First, far more people are receiving help under the scheme. The number of bills for summary trials in the magistrates' courts rose by 12 per cent, and the



number of suspects receiving legal advice at police stations rose by an astonishing 38 per cent.

Should the board be worried about that? No, it is a success, not a problem. Legal aid is essential in a society committed to a fair system of justice. The presumption must be that in any case that is important enough to justify public funds for prosecuting it, the defendant should be entitled to legal aid, subject to means.

As for advice at the police station, the number of suspects helped is a deliberate result of government policy. Ever since the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the government has been trying to make sure legal advice is genuinely available to suspects in police stations. Until recently, the take-up was surprisingly low.

The new codes of practice for the police were designed to ensure that suspects were properly informed of their right to free advice. They seem to have been spectacularly successful. The government should be

taking credit for this achievement, not complaining about the inevitable consequences it has for the cost of legal aid.

What about the cost of individual cases? The board argues that "the substantial increase in turnover for legal aid practices could have led to greater efficiency and lower average costs. This has not happened". It is concerned about the rise in average costs that underlies the government's apparent determination to force through its misguided standard fee proposals without waiting for the advice of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

However, is the assumption that the most efficient firms will tend to have lower average costs justified? It is not self-evidently so in the field of criminal legal aid. There, the main problem is that there is so much demand for solicitors' services that some practitioners take on more cases than

they can handle. Preparation of their cases is therefore not always as thorough as it should be. Their average costs may be much lower than those of practitioners who limit their caseload to the amount they can deal with thoroughly. However, nobody who cared about the quality of service provided to the client could argue that those lower costs necessarily represent more efficient service.

Last year, the average cost of magistrates' court cases rose by less than 12 per cent. The increase in fees was 7 per cent. Half the gap between those figures is directly caused by the increase in VAT from April 1991.

The "excess" increase, about which the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Legal Aid Board are so concerned, is therefore just over 2 per cent. That is the second lowest figure in the past nine years.

Increasing demands on practitioners have increased the amount of work needed in the average case.

Inefficiencies in the court system have also had an effect. Despite that, the rise in defence costs during the past few years is broadly comparable with the rise in the Crown Prosecution Service's costs of dealing with magistrates' court cases. Last year, the rise in defence costs was significantly lower than those of the CPS. As the CPS is generally recognised as being increasingly well-managed, the board and the Lord Chancellor's Department should look wider for explanations of rising costs in the magistrates' courts, rather than just blaming solicitors.

The Law Society shares the concern that the cost of legal aid is rising so fast, but it is even more concerned that in-depth analysis of the reasons for the rise has not been carried out. It is time to commission independent research into the subject. The Law Society would be happy to help with that.

● The author is the chairman of the Law Society's courts and legal services committee.

How firms must sharpen up

Inefficient practice is widespread, a new survey by management consultants reveals

Financial and managerial ineptitude is threatening many law firms. So say the management consultants Coopers & Lybrand after a survey that found that as many as a quarter of the 500 firms analysed use financial management standards "very significantly below" what Brian Woods-Scawen, a Coopers partner, considers good practice.

Profitability is accordingly reduced and there is inadequate investment to enable the poorest performers to remain competitive. The longer-term outcome is likely to be a spiralling downwards by firms that cannot afford the staff nor the information technology to provide clients with the standards they demand. The predictions, published in full in *The Lawyer* this week, will worry senior partners. The clearest message is that the old maxim, "Look after your client and the firm will succeed", will no longer suffice. To cope with the stresses of the recession, it is vital to tighten financial controls to ensure that staff are organised in the most efficient way.

Probably the toughest problem for senior partners is the ratio between partners and other fee earners. The best-performing firms, Coopers says, have one partner to three fee earners. Coopers argues that these firms need to review work patterns urgently. The survey also shows that despite great investment in computers and word processors by law firms, most lawyers still operate on the basis of one secretary to every fee earner. Hardly any operate with a ratio better than two to one. This is misuse of staff, says Coopers, which advises that cutting staff numbers and making better use of those remaining has become essential for the success, or even survival, of law firms.

To help to steer firms in the right direction, Coopers has produced guidelines as a basis for judging how well a firm is being run in financial terms. They show that in an efficient practice, staff costs should be no more than 40 per cent as a proportion of fees billed. The badly run practice, by contrast, will be paying at least 50 per cent. As for property costs, the well-run practice should be paying about 10 per cent of its fees as profits, before interest or tax, while a poorly run firm is likely to end up with just half that amount.

The problem facing many firms, however, is that with little sign of an end to the recession, there is no scope for any discrete manoeuvres on property or staff costs. Getting rid of people attracts bad publicity and costly leases may have been entered into at the peak of the boom. Even so, there are some straightforward steps towards improvement suggested by Coopers. One of the most basic recommended by Coopers is measuring "staff utilisation". Two-thirds of the firms surveyed failed to measure how their staff were being used. "Significant financial improvements can come from tighter measurement of the extent to which time is charged to clients," the report says.

Mr Woods-Scawen believes that there is much room for improvement. "Two-thirds of law firms do not produce monthly performance measures, while a quarter have no annual budget," he explains. "Thirty per cent do not produce monthly reports on their cash position and 65 per cent do not reforecast their cash flow during the year."

If lawyers are going to back up their claims to be good business advisers, they must first show that they are better at running their own business.

EDWARD FENNELL



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New Style Interviews

During the boom years of the late 1980s, when candidates were in a strong position, employers would spend much time at interviews "selling" their firm, and interviews tended to be lengthy. Now that the employers are the ones occupying the strong position, interviews are becoming shorter. There are more candidates to see, and employers do not feel the need to sell themselves.

In recent weeks we have noticed an increasing use of the telephone interview. This is particularly difficult for candidates to handle as it is often sprung without warning. You ring a firm to arrange an interview and find yourself quizzed about your career, experience, ambitions, and interests for fully ten minutes. And then, when at last you try to arrange the interview, the partner rings off with a promise that you will be contacted if they wish to see you. This technique is becoming so common — especially in the North of England — that candidates should prepare themselves for it. Do not treat the "phone call as a trivial matter to be fitted in while finishing your lunchtime sandwich. Choose the time and place which will allow you to put yourself across with confidence. Alternatively, if you are caught unawares, explain that you do not have the time just then but that you will ring back as soon as possible to continue the conversation.

Telephone interviews can save both parties a wasted journey, but they need to be conducted fairly and in the right circumstances. In due course they will probably become standard practice, especially when we all have the video telephone on our desks.

Michael Chambers

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Wimbledon 1992: The verdict on the championships

Agassi short-circuits purveyors of the power game

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

1992 WIMBLEDON FINALS

MEN'S SINGLES: A Agassi (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro), 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4

MEN'S DOUBLES: J McEnroe (US) and M Stich (Ger) bt J Grabb and R Reneberg (US), 5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 19-17

WOMEN'S SINGLES: S Graf (Ger) bt M Sotomayor (Vie), 6-2, 6-1

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (CIS) bt J Novotna (CZ) and L Savchenko-Nelander (Lat), 6-4, 6-1

MIXED DOUBLES: C Suk (CZ) and L Savchenko-Nelander (Lat) bt J Eltingh and M Orams (AUS), 7-6, 6-2

JUNIORS OVER-18 DOUBLES: P Fleming and S Smith (US) bt R Edmondson and K Warwick (AUS), 6-7, 7-6, 6-4

MEN'S OVER-45 DOUBLES: M Retten and S Stewart (US) bt J Newcombe and A Roche (AUS), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3

WOMEN'S OVER-35 DOUBLES: W Turnbull (AUS) and S V Wade (GB) bt R Cossais and S Walsh (US), 3-6, 6-3, 7-5

BOYS' SINGLES: D Stich (CZ) bt B Dunn (US), 6-4, 6-3

BOYS' DOUBLES: S Beldis and S Draper (AUS) bt M Shupat and N Kirians (Ind), 6-1, 4-6, 5-7

GIRLS' SINGLES: C Rubin (US) bt L Courtois (Bel), 6-2, 7-5

GIRLS' DOUBLES: M Avotins and L McShee (AUS) bt P Nelson and J Steven (US), 2-6, 6-4, 6-3

IT IS still hard to credit that at 2pm on the opening Monday of the 107th Wimbledon championships, Andre Agassi will emerge with pigeon-toed walk and, heaven forbid, baseball cap to defend his men's singles title. When the tournament began what seems like an eternity ago, the field was certainly wide open, but not that wide open.

With such heavyweights as Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich on home ground, the shaggy American figured more in imaginations than calculations. He had neither the experience nor the mental stamina to sustain a challenge to the world's best grass-court players. Nor did he seem the likeliest champion of the baseline brigade, the rock against which the power players would be dashed.

Yet, next year, all of them will have to walk past the noticeboard in the hallway of the All England Club and see the name "A. Agassi" appended to a long and distinguished list of champions. At least Becker, whose defeat in the quarter-final arguably turned the American's hopes into genuine belief, had the perverse satisfaction of being right about one thing. He was one of the minority who said, before the championships last year, that Agassi had the speed of hand and feet to do well on grass. Not even Becker could have anticipated just how well.

The story of Agassi's triumph is so full of contradictions, you half expected a man with a clipboard to halt proceedings with a cry of "take two". Until that last misjudged volley by Goran Ivanisevic, Agassi's career had been all flattery and deception. He had been carefully and brilliantly marketed and had made more than enough money, but was unable, as Brian Clough once

taunted Trevor Francis, to "show us your medals". Agassi, the whisperers had it, did not have the guts to win when it really mattered. That theory, along with a thousand others, disappeared on the gust of wind which caused Ivanisevic to double fault twice at a vital moment. But it was only blown away finally because, after nearly three hours of ducking and weaving, Agassi had the mental agility to strike when he had the chance. Agassi mastered the art of survival.

With due respect to

Ivanisevic and his awesome tally of 206 aces, the game, which was under scrutiny, should be thankful for that mercy. Agassi won the title with a service only marginally faster than that of the women's champion, Steffi Graf. He also won it with a service return and ground strokes of such breathtaking timing and power. Ion Tiriac, manager of Becker and Ivanisevic, suggested the laws of ballistics needed to be rewritten. Nobody measured the speed of the returns, but the big servers might legitimately ask who

WIMBLEDON COMPARISONS

Figures are percentages

	Men	Women
First service in	61.1	64.9
Unreturned service	40.8	24.7
Aces	10.7	3.2
Double faults	4.5	3.6
Service points won	66.7	68.6
First service points won	75.7	64.3
Second service points won	62.8	68.1
Service returns in	59.4	75.3
Points won at net	57.5	58.0
Baseline points won	44.2	48.9
Game points won	57.1	60.1
Break points won	36.3	44.9

FASTEST SERVICES (average on first service): Sampras, 115mph; Ivanisevic, 114; Forget, 113; Landi, 111; Stich, Becker, 110. Bates averaged 104; Agassi 98, the slowest of the leading players. Ivanisevic served more than twice as many aces (206) than the next best player in the category, Sampras (100).

Statistics compiled by IBM from matches on centre court and courts one, two, 13, 14

should be handicapped now. The issue of power will not go away, but International Tennis Federation officials can sleep more peacefully with a grass-court champion who is neither a giant nor the owner of a rocket-propelled service. For once, the good little 'un beat the good big 'un.

How Agassi will cope with his tag of Wimbledon champion will be one of the recurring themes of the next 12 months. He has not only, with one leap, jumped back above his contemporaries — Jim Courier, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang — but become a considerable figure in the game. His predecessor, Michael Stich, did not grow into the role of champion and left the centre court a disconsolate and unpopular figure this year.

Likewise, Edberg and Becker, one of whom had reached the last four every year since 1984, lost in the quarter-finals and have to decide whether they have the same desire for competition as John McEnroe. Or have riches and relentless competition blunted their appetites?

Whatever your preference, these were a vintage championships, marked by bright sunshine in the first week, grey skies and rain in the second. In the midst of it all, Jeremy Bates upheld the British flag; McEnroe came full circle, back to the semi-final where he began in 1977 and, with Stich, winning his fifth Wimbledon doubles title; Graf touched new heights on the court; and Seles left third and muted, but coped admirably with various controversies.

Besides Bates, it was encouraging to see British juniors doing well in both singles and doubles. Maybe the success of the British No. 1, in coming to within a point of reaching the quarter-finals, will lay the trail.



Crowning glory: Stich and McEnroe display the spoils of their five-hour Wimbledon doubles final

Champions set a fine example

By REX BELLAMY

THE best features of Wimbledon were Andre Agassi, Steffi Graf, John McEnroe, Jeremy Bates, the doubles, and the improved quality of second services. The worst features were the bad manners of some of the men, which is nothing new, and the transient fashion for unsightly cycling shorts and farmyard noises.

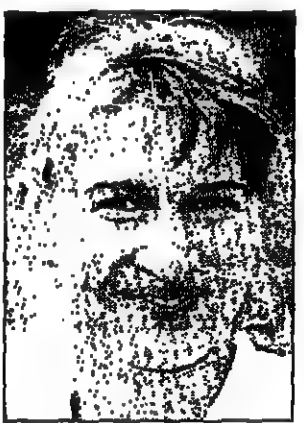
Agassi looked a mess but that superficial deficiency is no more than one should expect of a trendy young man from Las Vegas. The important influence he brought to Wimbledon were the quality of his ground strokes — his ability to profit from an opponent's power, as well as generating his own — and his obvious enjoyment of the game. His pleasure in playing tennis and his eagerness to share that pleasure were always evident.

Graf was exemplary in both play and conduct and the beauty of McEnroe's tennis largely compensated for his surly demeanour and his sporadic self-indulgence in throwing his rattle out of the prism.

Bates earned much praise but was not given enough credit for maintaining his

game at such a high level against Michael Chang and Guy Forget, who have superb rankings and habitually compete in more demanding tournaments than Bates does.

The doubles again provided more consistently spectacular tennis than the singles. As for second services, there were players of both sexes who reminded us that the second service is a sound measure of a player's competitive ability. British players in particular do not devote enough practice time to second services and the low volleys, or half-volleys, that



Graf exemplary

are often the next shots they have to play after second services.

It has long been puzzling that so many men demean themselves by the rude arrogance with which they address umpires. The same issues could be raised quietly and courteously. Jack Kramer tells a story of the time he lost confidence in a line judge who was having a bad day. Kramer, with civility, had a private word with the line judge and added that he would ask for a replacement. This was done without any unpleasant fuss. Kramer dealt with a problem in a manner that should be as common now as it was then.

Cycling shorts often look ridiculous but can be dismissed as a passing trend. The farmyard noises, most audible in the case of Monica Seles but by no means peculiar to her, are all the more surprising in an age when refined rackets supposedly can make the task of hitting a tennis ball less of an effort than it used to be.

The grunting and screeching are acceptable in sports that involve no opponent. In tennis, they are a distraction and offend two rules of the game. Those rules have been

applied in circumstances that attracted no publicity. At the highest level, the application of the irrelevant rules depends on the willingness of players to risk accusations of pettiness or sour grapes by protesting. One may reasonably make a rough analogy with golfers, who expect silence from all around them when they are preparing to strike the ball.

Nor should we forget that the once notorious "spaghetti" racket was banned partly because there was no sound of ball on racket, no early hint of a shot's nature. Any noise made by the striker has a similar effect in a different way, drowning the impact of ball on racket.

One has sympathy for television commentators. Some seem to have degrees in platitudes but all are afflicted by the need for urgent, unedited comment. Producers have an awful lot of time to fill during rain breaks but should have the initiative to offer us more than films of ancient matches. I have sometimes wondered how our sports editor would react if I told him: "No tennis today. But I did a good piece on the 1972 final. Could we reprint that?"

Faithful flock to McEnroe finale

By ALIX RAMSAY

JOHN McEnroe proved yesterday that he can still win a Wimbledon title and he can still pull a crowd. More than 6,500 people piled into every available seat, perch and vantage point to watch him and Michael Stich win the doubles title 19-17 in the fifth set against Richey Reneberg and Jim Grabb.

The atmosphere on No. 1 court was reminiscent of the middle Sunday at last year's championships. The spectators had queued for hours to see McEnroe and he did not

disappoint them in what may be his last appearance at the All England Club.

"It was certainly one of the best receptions I've had," McEnroe said. "It was incredible to come back on Monday and see that. It really pumped us up, the buzz and to have that excitement."

The match had been held over from Sunday night with the scores level at 13-13. That score had already broken the record as the longest Wimbledon doubles match in terms of games. There was the fear that yesterday could be an anticlimax, with only eight points

needed to decide the title. But McEnroe and Stich held the attention of the crowd for another 34 minutes.

Neither team showed a glimpse of weakness until Reneberg began to crack under the strain. A double fault gave a hint of nerves and a McEnroe lob broke him as the crowd's favourites edged ahead for the first time in the set, 18-17. After a Stich smash to set up match point and a McEnroe service winner, the battle was over after five hours and one minute, 5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 19-17.

"I can't top that as far as

doubles goes," McEnroe said. "The only way would be to win the singles, but the score wouldn't have to be that close."

Both Stich and McEnroe were taken aback by the response of the crowd. "That's the best way to show the players they really appreciate what you're doing," Stich said.

McEnroe, aged 33, is not saying whether he will be back. He has said in the past that he would like to go out on one last important victory. "This is not what I had in mind," he said. "If you win any tournament, it's nice, but to win a grand slam, it's incredible and that's the way this was."

As a warm-up act, Cyril Suk and Larisa Savchenko-Nelander won the mixed doubles title, beating Jacco Eltingh and Miriam Oremans, of Holland, 7-6, 6-2.

OTHER RESULTS: Boys' doubles: Quarter-finals: S Beldis and S Draper (AUS) bt L Arndt and G Ellis (AUS), 6-1, 6-3; Semi-finals: M Shupat and N Kirians (Ind) bt E Cossais and A Rodescu (AUS), 6-3, 6-4; Beldis and Draper bt C MacGregor and A Richardson (GB), 7-6, 6-4. Girls' doubles: Quarter-finals: M Avotins and L Woodcock (AUS) bt J Pullin and L Woodcock (GB), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; Semi-finals: P Nelson and J Steven (US) bt I Courtois and N Faber (Bel), 3-6, 6-4, 11-9; Avotins and Woodcock bt G Givens and L Horn (SA), 6-4, 6-4.

Ivanisevic climbs the rankings list

ANDRE Agassi's Wimbledon men's singles triumph has lifted him five places in the world rankings to No. 9, while the runner-up, Goran Ivanisevic, climbs from eight to a career-high of four.

The top three, Jim Courier, Stefan Edberg and Pete Sampras, are unchanged, but the 1991 Wimbledon champion, Michael Stich, slumps to No. 8, swapping places with Ivanisevic. Boris Becker, another former champion,

continues his slide, falling to No. 6, while John McEnroe, who reached the semi-finals, goes from 30 to 17.

Jeremy Bates, of Britain, who came so close to reaching the quarter-finals, moves up from 113 to 90.

The attendance yesterday of 7,798 brought the total attendance for the tournament to 372,853. The aggregate is an increase of 19,336 on 1991.

Meanwhile, Nick Bollettieri's proposal to assist Britain

GYMNASTICS

Balancing act in big league

By PETER AYKROYD

SUPERIOR teams from the new republics of the fragmented CIS are likely to force Britain down the world league table after the Barcelona Olympics, but the British men's team is determined to justify its place in the sport's first division at these Games.

For the first time, Britain is among the 12 elite nations qualified to compete in Barcelona after last year's world championships.

Eddie van Hoof, the British coach, is optimistic that the squad will finish in tenth or eleventh place. "We are deter-

mined to show we have arrived in Barcelona by merit and not by luck," van Hoof said.

The seven members of the men's squad are working at Lilleshall National Sports Centre until they fly to Barcelona on July 18. Their first competition is the compulsory exercise on July 26. Their preparation has included high-altitude training in Colorado, trial performances, the world and European championships, and testing in several international events.

Concentration, creativity and consistency will be essen-

tial for both the compulsory and voluntary exercises.

Neil Thomas, the national champion, and James May and Paul Bowler, both past British champions, could join the leading 36 performers in the individual all-round finals. Thomas and May are capable of reaching the individual floor and vault finals, respectively. Thomas would then be a medal possibility. Terry Bartlett, the team captain, is while Marvin Campbell, David Cox and Ian Shelley all have international experience.

MODERN PENTATHLON

Whyte unlucky to be odd man out

GREG Whyte was absorbing the news yesterday that he will be going to Barcelona as the British team's fourth man, the travelling reserve (Michael Coleman writes). Competing will be Richard Phelps, Dominic Mahony and Graham Brookhouse, who won the team bronze at the Seoul Games four years ago.

It was an agonising decision for the selectors, who deliberated for most of Sunday before imparting the good, and bad,

news. Their problem was that Whyte, whose only real weakness is running, is worth his place in any team. But this year's British squad is exceptionally talented. A gold medal is within reach.

To add to Whyte's chagrin he learnt his fate after winning a fencing workout at Abofield on Saturday, which several épée specialists joined. Among them was Stephen Paul, the national champion and, of course, Barcelona-bound.

In previous years, the man or woman to be reserve at a championship was informed on the eve of the contest. This time the Modern Pentathlon Association was advised by a sports psychologist to ask those on the shortlist their preference. All voted for as early notice as possible. For Whyte his sole chance of competing at Barcelona will be if one of the trio is injured in training or in the first event, the fencing.

POOLS FORECAST

CHELSEA are the only team in the Victoria second division without an away draw, but that pattern could be broken on Saturday when they visit Broadmeadows. Broadmeadows overtook Chelsea as a result of their victory last weekend, but Chelsea can gain a measure of revenge by stealing a point.

Sandringham's away record is good, considering their low position. It is certainly

good enough to get a draw out of their trip to Waverley, who are out of sorts.

The South Australia first division promises to be a happy hunting ground for draws with Croatia v Salisbury, Elizabeth v Polonia and Para Hills v Lion-Grange likely to finish all square. Note the void fixture, Fremantle v Athena (match No. 30), which is now being played on Sunday.

Saturday July 11

VICTORIA FIRST DIVISION
1 Altona v Mooroolbark
1 Richmond v Frankston P

VICTORIA SECOND DIVISION
1 Box Hill v E Brunswick
X Brimstone v Chelsea
1 Clifton Hill v S Caulfield
2 Melbourne C v Doncaster
1 R Melbourne v Vixen
1 Sunbury v Bentleigh
X Waverley v Sandringham

VICTORIA THIRD DIVISION
2 Brighton v Etham
1 Clonilla v Dandenong
X Regent v Launceston
1 Sandringham v Coburg
1 Seaford v Geelong
2 S H Polaris v Mubbin
1 Springvale U v Fitzroy

VICTORIA FOURTH DIVISION
X Boronia v S Wembley
1 Cranbourne v Heidelberg
2 Langwarrin v S Springvale

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams)
Broadmeadows, Waverley, Regent, Boronia, Frankston United, Williams Creek, Geelong, Para Hills, Mooroolbark, Caulfield, Launceston, Box Hill, Clonilla, Launceston, Waverley, Cranbourne, Para Hills

BEST DRAWS: Broadmeadows, Waverley, Cranbourne, Para Hills

AWAYS: Doncaster, Etham,

WEST AUSTRALIA FIRST DIVISION
1 Fremantle v Athena
2 Kalamunda v Bayswater
1 Perth v Sorrento
1 Spearwood v N Perth

WEST AUSTRALIA SECOND DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
X Frankston v Victoria
2 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRD DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA FOURTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA FIFTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA SIXTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA SEVENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA EIGHTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA NINTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA ELEVENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWELFTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA FOURTEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA FIFTEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA SIXTEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA SEVENTEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA EIGHTEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA NINETEENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTIETH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-FIRST DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-SECOND DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-THIRD DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-FOURTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-FIFTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-SIXTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-SEVENTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-EIGHTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTIETH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTY-FIRST DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTY-SECOND DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTY-THIRD DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTY-FOURTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

WEST AUSTRALIA THIRTY-FIFTH DIVISION
1 Armadale v Forest Hill
2 Brimstone v Brunswick C
1 Springvale C v Mubbin
2 West Vale v Launceston
1 Williams Creek v Mubbin
1 Yorkton v Kook

Hampshire slip to an unlucky defeat

Randall provides inspiration for Nottinghamshire

By JACK BAILEY

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of three): Nottinghamshire (18pts) beat Hampshire (3) by five wickets

NOTHING went Hampshire's way yesterday. That two of their players, Shaun Udal and Tony Middleton, should be weakened by illness overnight was no help and when, in order to make something of a rain-ravaged match, they agreed a double forfeit with Nottinghamshire — setting them to score 262 runs from what turned out to be 57 overs — they encountered Tim Robinson and Derek Randall in prime form on an easy-paced wicket. They were, in the end, defeated with three overs to spare.

These two put on 153 from 25 overs in the exhilarating style, both falling a few runs short of their centuries, but content in the knowledge that by the time they were out, Nottinghamshire's fourth Britannie Assurance county championship victory of the season was assured.

Randall, now aged 41, still marvellous to watch from the ring, infuriating with his antics, to bowl and field against, actually made his 93 from 92 balls. He gave Nottinghamshire just the impetus they needed.

Robinson, responsible throughout, though relatively free in his stroke-making, had been forced to consolidate when Broad had fallen to

COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	R	Pts
Essex (11)	11	5	3	3	34	146
Hampshire (9)	11	4	2	5	35	127
Northants (18)	11	4	3	4	33	117
Northants (17)	11	3	2	6	33	110
Sussex (11)	9	4	1	4	22	233
Worcesters (11)	11	3	4	4	33	106
Warwick (2)	10	3	5	2	22	35
York (6)	11	3	1	7	31	119
Yorkshire (11)	11	3	2	6	25	24
Derbyshire (3)	11	3	3	5	19	27
Gloucesters (11)	11	3	3	5	19	26
Leicesters (15)	10	3	2	7	34	26
Nottingham (7)	11	2	4	5	25	70
Nottingham (8)	12	2	4	5	25	32
Nottingham (14)	10	2	2	6	38	32
Nottingham (13)	11	2	3	6	16	7
Nottingham (12)	9	1	4	4	19	21

Incident near end of play compounds bad day in field for Pakistan cricketers

England throw off the shackles

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (fourth day of five): England are 115 runs behind Pakistan.

ENGLAND will consider yesterday to be a day when they broke out of jail. Pakistan should consider it a day when they obligingly left the cell keys under the doormat and turned a blind eye.

The third Cornhill Test match is heading for a draw and, if this reflects some heroic England batting under heavy fire, it also owes plenty to hapless Pakistani out-cricketer, degenerating by the close into ugly indiscipline.

When Pakistan review their performance here they must conclude that they failed to win because they spilled catches, fielded artificially and bowled an unforgivable volume of no-balls, 32 from Wasim Akram to go with his five wickets.

That they also averaged little more than 12 overs an hour compounded the felonies of a day they ended in disarray, with Aqib Javed reading childishly to the strictures of the umpire, Roy Palmer, and Javed Miandad supporting his player in the frenzied style of his pre-diplomatic days.

There was no excuse for the three successive short-pitched balls Aqib bowled to a genuine No. 11 in Malcolm, still less for his hot-headed response to Palmer's interjection. Aqib's complaints were that the first short ball was not a bouncer and that Palmer was impolite in throwing him his sweater; this could scarcely forgive him.

Miandad's part was unhelpful, if not openly provocative, though at least he intercepted a Pakistani supporter intent on doing Palmer some harm. The umpire needed a police escort to leave the field, a sad end to a day of tension.

It was set up to be David Gower's day and, in a sense, so it was. In a morning session of memorably compelling cricket, the game's prodigious favourite fulfilled everyone's hopes, not simply by scoring 34 runs to displace Geoffrey Boycott as the most prolific English Test batsman, but by the evocative way he did so.

Gower and Graham Gooch, however, were both out in the seventies, the main aims of the day elusively distant. In mid-afternoon England had slipped to 256 for seven, still requiring 50 to avoid the follow-on.

Pakistan were now predatory but there followed an eighth-wicket stand of 59, and another of 64 for the ninth. This invested the status of

saviours on Chris Lewis and Ian Salisbury and served to lecture the Pakistanis that flair will not always win games when fundamentals fall down.

It was the most chastening day of the series so far for Miandad's team. The sun shone, the antithesis of the bowling conditions they craved and which, on Saturday, they had so relished. Catches went down at crucial times, batsmen played harmless air shots and, to infuriate the Pakistanis still further, questions were asked by the umpires about the sufficed condition of the match ball.

The same two umpires had posed similar questions at Taunton, early in the tour. Now, the interest clearly peaked Miandad, who remonstrated with Shepherd and hurled the ball on to the ground as if to demonstrate how it can naturally lose its sheen on such hard ground. The match referee, Conrad Hunte, was informed of the inspection but no action was deemed necessary.

The early wicket Pakistan needed was supplied by Aqib Javed, darting a ball back at Robin Smith to win a leg-before decision. Aqib, an erstwhile Hampshire team-mate, greeted Gower with a bouncer. Gower thick-edged his second ball wide of third slip for four and then, his feet responding, moved gracefully into line to cover drive his third for four more. The show, a much-loved repeat, was under way.

He should have gone in Aqib's next over. Already on 15, Gower lapsed into the flatfooted, flatbatted off-side shot which has so often seen him perish. He edged it, then settled back with relief as Salim Malik, at first slip, dropped a chance as simple as the one with which he had spared Gooch on Saturday. Malik was banished from the slip cordon, while Gower banished the memory.

He had faced only 30 balls when he square drove Aqib for four to eclipse Boycott and become the fifth highest Test runmaker in the world. Gooch was almost passive, though not so passive as to overlook the need to keep his partner going with regular gestures.

It was a classic partnership between men who have publicly, if not privately, been in conflict. They had already put on 76, at more than six an over, when Inzamam dislocated a finger trying to pluck the ball off the floor at slip when



Test of survival: Hick is at pains to avoid a short ball in the third Test match at Old Trafford yesterday

Gower's pride in record

By PETER BALL

Gower edged Waqar. By Pakistani standards, the appeals were unconvincing and the umpires gave Gower the benefit of considerable doubt.

Gooch had been batting three-and-a-half hours when he gloved a leg-side catch off Waqar, who soon disturbed Hick with a bouncer and followed it with something close to unplayable, jaggling back from outside off stump to pass over the top of leg.

Gower went to his third ball after lunch. Hick and Russell following in a single, menacing over from Aqib. But Lewis, despite frequently being beaten by Akram, kept his head, dispatched the loose balls and, in the last over of the session, whipped Aqib away for four to complete his 50 and effectively save the game.

John Woodcock, page 34

DAVID Gower's contribution to cricket has never been measured primarily in figures, but statistics were to the fore yesterday as he finally overtook Geoffrey Boycott as England's leading scorer in Tests.

"The record was being talked about two years ago in Australia, and then it all went wrong in the last two Tests out there, a relaxed, smiling Gower, said before celebrating with a glass of champagne. "It has been a long wait to get out there again, and I'm proud to have overtaken someone of Geoffrey's stature."

"I shall look back on the record proudly, but the entire

point of playing is to win the Test, and our first target was to avoid the follow-on, not for me to just break the record."

If Gower had needed any reminding, he had his captain, frequent partner and sometime critic, Graham Gooch, for company as he passed the milestone. "He said 'well done', Gower said. "Quite succinct — but his main concern was that I'd be looking at a bigger total."

The sentiments were impeccable, and even the former record holder could not restrain an approving nod.

The cover drive for four which took Gower past Boycott's total of 8,114 runs was,

as even the Yorkshireman admitted, "a trademark Gower shot," but the previous 29 balls were the epitome of Gower's cricket, beauty and fallibility intermingled.

He claimed two fours from edges almost immediately, the first from his second ball and escaped a typical wait outside off stump on 15, Salim Malik putting down the straightforward chance at first slip.

"I used up all my luck in the morning," Gower said. "I had had a feeling before the game that things were going to go well, and when that went down that seemed like confirmation that it was going to be my day."

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

Pakistan won toss

PAKISTAN: First Innings: 505 for 9 dec (Aamir Sohail 205, Javed Miandad 88, Mujtaba 57, Ramiz Raja 54).

ENGLAND: First Innings

	Bs	4s	6s	Mins	Balls
*G A Gooch c Moin Khan b Waqar Younis	78	0	11	308	133
Fending off ball going down leg side					
A J Stewart c Inzamam b Wasim	15	0	3	55	38
Edged wide ball to second slip					
M A Atherton c Moin b Wasim	0	0	0	2	3
Edged outswinger to keeper					
R A Smith bow b Aqib Javed	11	0	1	56	24
Cut back off pitch					
D I Gower c Moin Khan b Wasim Akram	73	0	12	105	86
Cutting ball wide of off stump					
G A Hick b Aqib Javed	22	0	2	76	44
Middle stump uprooted by good length ball					
C C Lewis c Moin Khan b Wasim Akram	35	0	8	140	101
Expansive drive at wide ball					
YR C Russell c Aamir Sohail b Aqib Javed	4	0	1	3	4
Gloved rising ball to second slip					
I D Salisbury c Aamir Sohail b Wasim Akram	30	0	7	176	130
Edged drive low to second slip					

T A Munton not out

D E Malcolm b Aqib Javed

Extras (b 6, lb 6, w 2, nb 35)

Total (487 mins, 100.4 overs)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41 (Gooch 20), 2-42 (Gooch 20), 3-93 (Gooch 53), 4-186 (Gower 82), 5-200 (Hick 3), 6-252 (Lewis 28), 7-256 (Lewis 28), 8-315 (Salisbury 21), 9-379 (Munton 20), 10-380 (Munton 25)

BOWLING: Wasim 36-4-128-5 (lb 32, w 2) (10-1-33-2, 5-0-25-0, 5-1-19-1, 5-0-29-0, 2-0-14-1, 2-0-4-1); Waqar 32-6-85-1 (11-5-30-0, 2-0-14-0, 9-0-27-1, 7-2-20-0, 3-1-5-0); Aqib 21-4-100-4 (lb 11) (1-0-9-0, 6-0-47-1, 8-0-24-2, 6-4-1-21-1); Mujtaba 1-1-0-0 (one spell); Mustafiz 10-1-50-0 (6-1-19-0, 2-0-20-0, 3-0-11-0)

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Third day: Bad light stopped play at 3.26pm — tea taken at 9.0 (Gooch 4, Stewart 4), 1.5 overs: BLSP 5-47-8 04pm: 45-2 (Gooch 23, Smith 0), 18.1 overs: 60 84 mins, 17.4 overs: BLSP 6-32pm 72-2 (Gooch 36, Smith 5), 21.1 overs: Play abandoned at 6.50pm Fourth day: 100 129 mins, 25.2 overs: 150, 166 mins, 32.5 overs: Lunch 195-4 (Gower 69, Hick 2), 46 overs: 200-231 mins, 46.3 overs: 250 285 mins, 58 overs: 300, 345 mins, 70 overs: Test 307-7 (Lewis 53, Salisbury 15), 71 overs: 350-424 mins, 87.5 overs: New ball taken at 354-8, 90.1 overs: Innings closed at 6.21pm

Umpires: R Palmer and D R Shepherd

Brundle proves Walkinshaw's belief is justified

By NORMAN HOWELL

MARTIN Brundle did try to have a quiet morning after his third place in the French grand prix on Sunday. He helped get his two children ready in the morning, then he took them to school. But when he got back to his Norfolk home he knew he was not going to have a normal day.

"There were more than 100 faxes snaking their way round the study. And the phone has been hot with use. But I love it. See, I have had more disappointments than successes in Formula One. So I told myself that that I would quickly forget the bad times, and really savour the good ones," said Brundle yesterday morning.

He had to wait three hours before he could have a celebra-

tory drink of champagne. The French lorry drivers' strike encouraged no one to linger in the paddock after the race.

"I had already decided that I wasn't going to spray the stuff all over the podium but keep it instead for my mechanics. God knows they deserve it, and I was going to have a quick glass with them."

"But alcohol is banned in public ceremonies in France. So no champagne for me or my crew. But I did get the trophy."

Indeed, an hour after the race, Brundle was still clutching the cup to his chest, a slightly dazed look on his face. He still couldn't believe that Lady Luck had finally decided to smile on him.

"This is not the first good race I've had this season. But



Brundle: experienced

on at least three occasions the car let me down. And when the car's engine cut out completely every time I took a right hander, I thought I just wasn't going to finish the race. For a

while I felt so angry. Angry with the team because the car had a fault. Then I got angry with myself for being angry in the first place and losing my rhythm."

"But then all the knocks I have had for so many years came through to help me: I felt clear and relaxed. Much worse had happened to me. This was my opportunity."

Brundle's result was a very popular one in the Formula One paddock. He is one of the nice guys in the sport. Ready to share his knowledge, courteous with the sponsors, and happy also to spend time with the "normal" people in the sport, the journalists, the mechanics, the public relations staff of the teams.

"I am a team player. People say I live in the shadow of

Michael Schumacher, and of Nigel Mansell. It makes me angry."

"Take Michael. I have great admiration for him. He is a very genuine talent. But one of the reasons I am in the team is that I have experience. I contribute significantly at debriefing sessions. And my team-mate benefits a great deal from this."

As for Mansell, Brundle thinks that he can be just as fast as the current leader in the drivers' championship. "I know I can have the perfect race strategy. What I am still missing is the speed. I have it when I have to come back after a setback."

"But charging is not in my nature. Racing 10 per cent over the ragged edge, as Ales does, is not my style. Most

world champions were smooth drivers, see Lauda, Prost and now Senna. And that is the secret: to balance between the passion and the clinical."

Brundle has no illusions about his standing in the team. "I am here because Tom Walkinshaw believed in me. I am one of the less than 10 drivers who is paid to sit in a car, and that makes me vulnerable in the eyes of those in the team who are commercially minded."

This is a reference to Flavio Briatore who, with Walkinshaw, runs the team. "It's true," says Briatore. "I wanted Ivan Capelli. But this is one of the rare occasions that I will admit that I was wrong. Martin is superb."

Champions say Agassi win is good for tennis

By ALIX RAMSAY

TWO former Wimbledon champions, John McEnroe and Michael Stich, yesterday put Andre Agassi's victory in this year's championship into perspective. Both men were convinced that beating Goran Ivanisevic on grass would finally elevate Agassi from the Las Vegas showman to the true champion.

"Andre has been through a lot of hype and hoopla before, but this is going to legitimise him," McEnroe said. "People will realise what a great tennis player he is. The way he did it was phenomenal — to stay back and hit just so — to play that way is unbelievable. It's really good for tennis."

At a time when the men's game has come under close scrutiny, with many believing the big servers are ruining the sport, Agassi's win has pleased Stich. "It shows all the guys who are criticising the tennis that there is something different in the game," he said. "It's not just a guy like Goran serving 200 aces. The guys playing tennis like Andre can still win."

After losing three grand slam finals there were doubts over Agassi's ability to win big matches, but according to McEnroe his victory proved

that Agassi has the ability to be a truly great champion.

McEnroe believes that the change is Agassi came through seeing Jim Courier take the No. 1 ranking and overtake him both physically and mentally. "The classic thing for a great player is to learn from your mistakes," he said. "Now you're seeing the real Andre. He is the greatest returner of serve at this point and he reacts so quickly. All these things came together where suddenly his game was really suited to grass."

But McEnroe was quick to point out that next year would be a different matter. Coming to Wimbledon as defending champion would put the pressure on him as never before. "He has always been popular but people will have a different attitude to him," he said. "But anyone who knows tennis has to admire the way he plays."

Agassi also won a less prestigious title. In a reasonably quiet and well behaved championship, Agassi earned the highest prize of the two weeks, \$1,500, for an audible obscenity during his first-round match.

Wimbledon review, page 32

British team has formidable look

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN Stark, the European champion, heads one of the strongest three-day event teams Britain has sent to an Olympic Games. The formidable quartet, announced yesterday, is made up of Stark

with either Glenburke or Murphy himself, Virginia Leng, the former world and European champion, with Master Craftsman, Mary Thomson, the winner of Badminton, with Kinn Williams, and Richard Walker, the European individual silver medal winner with Jacana.

Such is the strength of British eventing that Karen Dixon, and Giel Smart, winners of the individual bronze medal at the European championships in Puchestown — admittedly after a refusal on the cross-country — are only as reserves.

Owen Moore, who competed to his first Badminton this year. Is named as the non-travelling reserve with his brilliant mare, Locomotion. Stark is the only rider who has two horses. Mrs Leng, aged 37, has decided that her second horse, Welton Houdini, is too young and inexperienced for an Olympics.

Although Britain has won every European champion-

ship since 1985 — and the world championship in 1986 — the team has not won an Olympic gold medal since 1972, the year Richard Mead won the individual gold.

Stark and Leng were both members of the silver medal-winning teams at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Leng won the individual bronze on both occasions and Stark won the individual silver in Badminton, at 41 the eldest of the four, has no Olympic experience. His selection, which comes after his near-perfect performance on Jacana at Puchestown, fulfils an ambition he has nursed since he won Badminton on Pasha in 1969.

Any of the four team members could win the individual gold. The main rivals for the team gold will be New Zealand, the reigning world champions.

Lord Patrick Beresford, the British chef d'equipe, is unequivocal about his aim. "We are not interested in the silver medal. We are going to Barcelona to win the gold," he said.

BRITISH TEAM: V Leng (Master Craftsman), I Stark (Glenburke and Murphy), M Thomson (Kinn Williams), R Walker (Jacana). Travelling reserve: K Dixon (Giel Smart). Non-travelling reserve: O Moore (Locomotion).

Forwards into battle

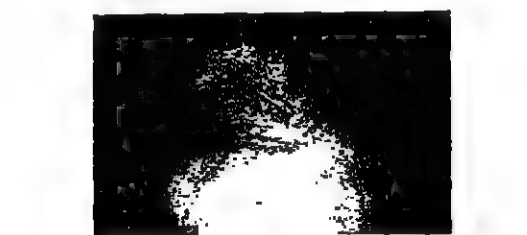
Naples: The frustration of the England rugby union forwards in the aftermath of the defeat by Argentina in the Student World Cup reached boiling point yesterday when they decided to forgo the normal day off and opt for a heavy scrummaging session (Chris Thau writes). The front row of Chris Clark, Tim Beddow and John Mallett felt particularly incensed.

"Every time we had a scrummage we went back-

wards, no matter what we tried to do," Mallett, the tight-head prop, said. "I hated it. We can't afford to stay idle. The entire campaign hinges on the game against South Africa. It has now become the knockout game: it's now or never."

Wales, comprehensively beaten by Romania, are in a similar predicament, although victory against New Zealand, the world champions, seems improbable.

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page for top
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LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY JULY 7 1992

FRANCE p4
A gourmet
guide — and
win a slice of a
vineyard



Never mind the movie, see the T-shirt

A film is no longer just a film, it's a 'franchise opportunity'. Geoff Brown investigates the ultimate in Hollywood horror — the merchandising machine

Once again the world is enslaved by a registered trademark. A black bat stretches its wings inside a yellow oval; or, depending on your standpoint, the logo might represent tonsils and two molars in a mouth seriously in need of oral surgery.

Move through the shops and the crowded streets: you will find it on T-shirts, caps, mugs, sportswear, key rings, pencils. Batman returns, just in time to promote this summer's biggest movie, called appropriately *Batman Returns*, which opens in Britain this Friday. If you wish to escape it, you may have to travel to the moon.

In today's Hollywood, audience cultivation has become a costly business. The promotion of a big release can inflate a film's final cost by some eight million dollars, a sizeable fraction of many production budgets; for special occasions, the resources of Fort Knox may be summoned.

Advance reports indicate that *Batman Returns* is no ordinary summer time-waster. The director, Tim Burton, seems to have squeezed more of his quirky personality onto celluloid than he managed in *Batman* three years ago; while Michelle Pfeiffer, cast as Catwoman, has been declared by one excitable American critic to be "purrrfect... the cat's meow".

Whatever the product, it is hard not to be depressed by the tidal wave of hype and hideous merchandise these extravaganzas attract. Alongside the various brands of fast food, jeans and soft drinks, Hollywood's blockbusters saturate urban environments worldwide.

Sometimes a few choice words will do the trick. Posters for *Total Recall*, the summer behemoth of 1990, dangled just one "Schwarzenegger", the letters "shouted", against a background suggesting a celestial apocalypse. Audiences succumbed in droves.

Sequels, the staple of America's summer fare, lend themselves especially to this monolithic approach, since the spade work has already been done. Emblazon a poster with Sigourney Weaver's staved head, plus the title *Alien*, and a queue of *laidis* forms immediately. *Lethal Weapon 3*, another summer sequel due in Britain soon, needs to show little more than Mel Gibson and Danny Glover holding guns, with comic relief Joe Pesci poking in between. The slogan says all that is required: "The magic is back again".

Other films require more vigorous marketing. Before *Dick Tracy* was launched in 1990, the producers, Disney, faced numerous hurdles thrown up by consumer research. Unlike *Batman*, who had his cult television series, the potential young audience were largely ignorant of *Dick Tracy*'s place in popular culture. They also regarded Warren Beatty, the film's director and star, as yesterday's man.

The Disney company (pioneers in cinema merchandise) countered with a blitzkrieg, battering the public into submission with memorabilia matched to the film's Art Deco style. Shirts, mugs, glossy books, toys galore: they sold merely for a time, but only until the film faded from memory.

Children, of course, are especially vulnerable. The depleted comic layer will not be responsible for finishing off the earth. Our imaginations atrophied, from Tooting to Timbuktu we will choke to death on the debris of turtle toys, little toxic monsters and cakes in the shape of Bart Simpson's head.

A substantial Hollywood release can no longer be regarded simply as a film. Digest these bone-chilling words by Brian Grazer, speaking in 1990 as co-chairman of Imagine Entertainment, the company behind films like *Parental Guidance* and the forthcoming *Far and Away*, directed by Ron Howard. "We should make movies", he said, "that have franchise or sequel opportunities, and are constructed in such a way to fully use merchandising and theme park opportunities."

This is the modern world. If *Casablanca* were being made today, think of the prospects: Bogie dolls that squeak "Here's looking at you, kid", toy pianos tinkling out "As Time Goes By", theme park editions of Rick's Café, with animatronic facsimiles of the stars. As the world stood in 1942, Warner Brothers did not even make a sequel. To be sure, the old Hollywood studios were run like factories, but they employed their best brains to create full-blooded films that could stand on their own, not packaged goods in a chain of merchandise.

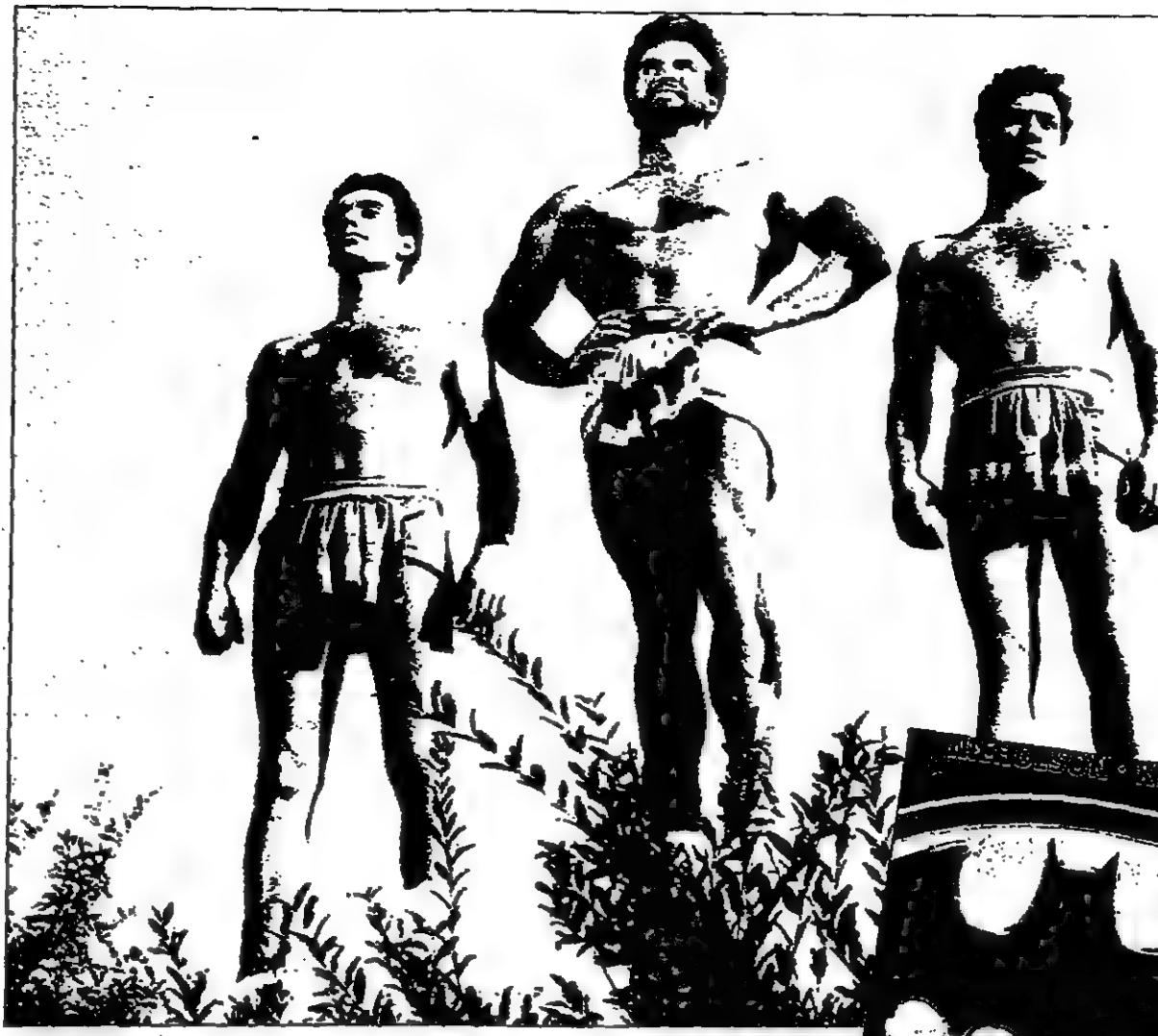
Now we must gird our loins for what might be the ultimate marriage of movie, ballyhoo and merchandise: Steven Spielberg's colossal, high-tech version of Michael Crichton's novel *Jurassic Park*, set in a dinosaur theme park where the attractions run amok. Given Spielberg's cachet and the dinosaurs' grip on youngsters, a marketing catayana seems likely when the film, still in pre-production after a year, bursts into view.

How did we reach this horrid state? As with most things, it happened by degrees. In the days of *Casablanca* and before, there was less competition for audiences' time and money. Masses went to the cinema week after week, whatever the fare, whatever the publicity.

But now there are distractions galore. The studios aim to yank us from our televisions and VCRs with the same arm-twisting tactics that put identical cans of soft drinks in hands across the globe. We have long ago stopped being cinema spectators, banded together in a magical place for a unique experience; we are mass consumers, too often consuming junk.

Perhaps the movies never had an age of total innocence. The silent era did not know the term "spin-offs", yet they existed just the same: fan magazines, dolls, sheet music featuring movie theme songs, even spoons with stars' heads imprinted on the handles. Chaplin alone let loose an avalanche of merchandise. But the world was bigger then.

Then Mickey Mouse came along. In 1930, a man offered Walt Disney \$300 for putting Mickey's face on school slates. Slates led to comic strips, food, packaging, watches, colouring books, toys and trinkets without number, to Mickey



Mega hype: the success of the 1959 film, *Hercules*, (top) inspired other studios to spend fortunes on promotion. Above: selling *Batman* buttons



motto of Albert ("Cubby") Broccoli, the producer who nurtured the film series. Until publicist Tom Carville whipped up whirlwinds of media coverage for each new 007 adventure. By 1965 shops were choked with Ian Fleming's original novels, toy Aston-Martins, little attaché cases with hidden toy guns, even *Shirley* Bassey, yelling "Goldfinger". The world was in bondage.

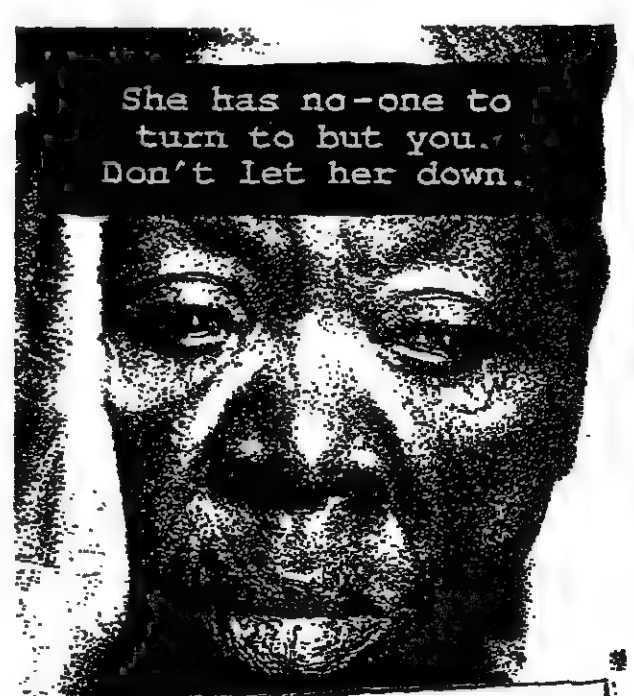
A decade on, at the end of the 1970s, came the outburst of movie spectacles designed to appeal to the child in all of us: *Star Wars*, *Jaws*, *E.T.* Not every merchandising blitz paid dividends: as Larry Carlat in *Variety* once reminded, "Somehow *E.T.* seemed a lot less enchanting on a key chain or a thermos". But the huge box-office success of such pictures galvanised manufacturers as never before, and stimulated producers to pile more and more effort into force-feeding the public with films designed to be spun into a thousand consumer goods. The extraordinary success of the *Batman* promotion in 1989 — in some American urban areas teenagers

diamond, the off-beat item that warrants attention but fails to reach cult status. So many deserving films, so many artists, from all over the world, get squeezed out of cinemas and the public mind by Hollywood glants and their ballyhoo.

As the medium approaches its centenary, drastic measures are called for. Popular cinema should turn back the clock and return to basics. The world needs a good film, plain and simple, not another lousy T-shirt.

TOMORROW

Five-star performance? Benedict Nightingale on *Grand Hotel* as Tommy Tune finally comes to London



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Once more round the track, dear friends

Sol was sitting at the bar with an old friend, one with whom I shared an office 22 years ago, and it was coming up to closing time, so we were almost the last people in the place, when the barman approached us and said: "You two gentlemen look as if you've been round the track a few times do you mind if I ask you for a bit of advice about women?"

We almost spilled our drinks. We looked at each other in astonishment. Who did he take us for? What had we come to?

I think it was Philip Toynbee, writing in *The Observer* in the early Sixties, who said that a key moment arrives in the life of every man when he ceases to be promising and begins to recognise himself as a failure. That change, he said, tends to coincide with the moment when a gay young dog becomes a dirty old man.

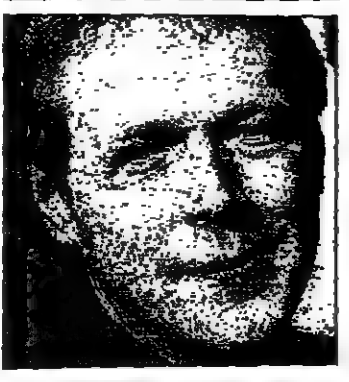
(The observation might have been written in the late rather than the early Sixties — though, evidently, it predates the appropriation of the word "gay" from hetero to homosexual inclinations. The author might have been A.J.P. Taylor, Kenneth Tynan or Richard Crossman, all dead. The journal might have been the *New Statesman*, *The Listener* or *The Manchester Guardian*, dead, dying or gone to hell. Another key stage of transition must be recog-

nised when you cannot depend on your memory to come up with reliable distinctions between one damned thing and another — but it doesn't matter much because the dead never answer back.)

I learned upon this unsteady recollection last week, when I was visiting a colleague in his office. I found him negotiating with bitter grace the other loop of the Toynbee double helix. "Welcome to the Old Farts' Rest Room," he said, offering me a chair beside his desk. "This is the end of the corridor where old executives are sent to die. The Young Turks are next door, hatching plots. God knows what they are up to."

I met this man 15 years ago when he landed his first responsible job. The thrilling terror he felt at that age was visible in all his manners and his behaviour. Early to work and late to leave, he tiptoed through every meeting and the composition of every memorandum, aghast that he might commit a solecism or a folly which would show his seniors that he was hopelessly out of his depth. A curt word or a sharp cut from any one of them would sink him into an oceanic quicksand of despondency from which he would have to be hauled by hand in the pub at lunch or after work and far into the night. Five or six years older than he was, I would try to reassure him

MID LIFE
Neil Lyndon fears he might be safe to share a taxi with



with the words spoken to me by a kindly older colleague whose job I was taking over when I was 27. "It is a very peculiar moment," she said, "when you realise that people younger than you are not necessarily inexperienced." Respectful to the point of reverence towards his elders, my young friend in his big new job took a word of encouragement from them as a forlorn suitor takes a warm glance from the one he hopelessly adores: he bloomed and grew and a faint smile played

around his lips as he bent again to his work, as if he was telling himself, "I can do it! I shall succeed!"

See him now: what a miserable old bastard he has become, and how it suits him. He now finds himself junior in office but senior in age to some of his bosses, about whose weaknesses of judgment and intelligence he carps and snipes incessantly. "I have discovered", he said, "that people younger than you may not be inexperienced but that doesn't mean that they know how to do things properly. A most extraordinary thing has happened to me," he said, lifting his feet onto his desk and drinking the coffee which he had confidently ordered his secretary to make. "I find that I have become the veteran of the office, the one who has seen and done it all before. I am now the one to whom they all refer if they want to know how it was done in the old days. This all seems to have happened in about three months."

No longer the coming man, suddenly the veteran, he might see himself as a failure: but my old friend would never. I think, he counted a dirty old man, being tidily married and devoted to the fatherhood of a pair of infants. In the eyes of barmen and young friends, it appears that the second loop of the Toynbee double helix has ensnared not him but me.

Any young hopeful who wants to know how scores were made and kept in the old days now seems to refer the question to me. They may not be inexperienced, but that doesn't mean that they know how to get from first to second base in the progress of romance. They come to me because they assume that I have done and seen it all and am, as a consequence, too clapped-out to take anything but a conversational interest in sexual affairs.

Young women ring me up or ask to go out to lunch so that they can discuss the aches of their hearts. They ask me what they should do about the man who fears commitment or the one who sits up until the middle of the night drinking whisky when he could be fast in a loving embrace. God help me, they seem to think that I am their uncle or that I might want to adopt them. They don't even do me the courtesy of pretending that I might have baser thoughts on my mind and the means to implement them.

It would do my heart good to think that I was considered dangerous but I fear that the most damning of all legends may have got around and that I may now be known as being ST — safe in taxis. That is even more dispiriting than being recognised by a stranger as being one who has been round the track a few times. Sad to say, both observations are probably correct.

Red rag to the blue-rinsed?

Patrick Garland is mixing theatrical innovation with proven tradition at Chichester. Benedict Nightingale reports

On the wall of his office at Chichester, beside the photos of famous faces, Patrick Garland has hung what he calls "the most important thing ever said about running a theatre". It is a quotation from the drama fanatic, Charles Dickens, and it goes like this: "It is a remarkable fact in theatrical history, long established beyond dispute, that it is a hopeless endeavour to attract people to a theatre unless they can first be brought to believe that they will never get into it."

But how can Garland provoke that kind of giddy stampede among the sedate people of West Sussex? How is he to create that must-see feel at the Chichester Festival Theatre? The conventional wisdom is that he would have to dig up Alastair Sim and Margaret Rutherford, and cast them in a polite Pinero farce. But the challenge he has set in the second year of his second stint as the theatre's director is to generate excitement and fresh audiences for new work, starting with Melvyn Bragg's first play, *King Lear* in New York.

That would be a less remarkable aim at most regional theatres than at Chichester, which has famously traditional audiences and no state subsidy. There, ordinary ambition becomes outrageous hubris. Nobody has officially explained why Michael Rudman resigned last year after only one season as the theatre's director, but it cannot have been unconnected with the artistic and, consequently, financial risks he took. Peter Hall's production of *Born Again*, a musical version of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, won admiration for its imaginative brio; but it was far from recovering its costs. When Rudman scheduled another ambitious and expensive musical for 1991, *Till Tomorrow*, he was in effect handing a nervous board his own severed head.

No wonder, then, Garland looks worried as he munches sandwiches beneath his Dickensian motto. Last year he played safe, hastily bringing in the eternal Keith Michell in Shakespeare's patriotic *Henry VIII*. This year, it is John Stride as a turbulent thespian staging a comeback in New York — could the result be his *Born Again* or *Till Tomorrow*? Bragg's play is apparently not a rerun of his television serial, *A Time to Dance*. "No bank managers chasing their secretaries naked



Patrick Garland in Chichester, keen to build a new audience for new work: "My job is to push forward the frontiers of the mainstream"

through the Lake District," Garland assured his board. But it is, he says, gutsy stuff. "You hear the authentic sound of the contemporary voice. You see the passionate, tormented, neurotic relationships that are so much part of the fabric of our lives today."

In translation, that would seem to mean that the Chichester audience can expect rather more sex and strong language than usual. How will it react? Could *Lear* in New York bring about a bit more tolerance for the new and riskier? The first signs have not been good. Advance ticket sales are poorer than for any of this year's four main-house productions, including Goldsmith's *The Stoops to Conquer*, which does not open until mid-August. The public has become less willing to buy seats for a whole season; and it is untidy work which inevitably suffers. "I could cast Jane Fonda in a new play and they'd still be wary," moans Garland.

Yet he finds consolation in the financial success of the season so far.

If Bragg's play fills only 60 per cent of the theatre's 1,400 seats, the other offerings must average at least 80 per cent, and are doing so. And though Donald Sinden in Fry's *Venus Observed* may merely confirm the view that Chichester likes big names in upbeat revivals, the pull of Kenneth Branagh in *Coriolanus* seems more encouraging.

"It's not *Much Ado* or *The Shrew*," says Garland. "It's a fiery, feisty young company in a play which few people seem to know. And I've the evidence of the box office and my eyes that it is drawing a new audience to Chichester. Not so middle-class, middle-aged and middle-brow. Not the blue-rinsed brigade that has been our staple fare. A younger age-group, a different social class." It is, he claims, an audience for tomorrow.

Is this balanced optimism or hopeful bluster? Perhaps a bit of both. Chichester will never be a rural Royal Court, provoking rebellion among the Sussex peasantry, nor should it try to be. But its reach is wide. Southampton to Portsmouth to

Brighton, even north to London — and the theatrical taste buds out there must be pretty varied. Nor should those who accuse the theatre of opting for stars in "nice" plays forget its history: Olivier in *Uncle Vanya*; Finney in John Arden's *Armstrong's Last Goodnight*; Bates in Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*; Sinden in Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*.

Those are not vacuously glittering performers, nor bland plays. Moreover, major actors still seem willing to give a summer to Chichester, even though the financial woes of the West End have made the prospect of a transfer less likely. Nevertheless, the theatre's creative highlights have sometimes guttered at the box-office. In 1980 Ted Tally's play about Scott of the Antarctic, *Terra Nova*, got excellent reviews, but proved a financial failure. Even *A Patriot for Me* did far better when it moved to London than in Chichester itself.

The task facing Garland is obvious. Yet tricky. It is somehow to reconcile

tradition, in the form of finely performed classics, with evolution, in the form of plays that stretch audiences without breaking their loyalty. Moreover, it is to accomplish this in the main theatre, not just in the 250-seat Minerva. As Garland says: "A policy that confines works of artistic endeavour to a studio is a cop-out. My job is to push forward the frontiers of the mainstream."

That sounds unexceptionable enough; yet Garland admits there was a point recently when his nerve faltered. Would Chichester really buy the pricey Bragg? It was the box-office manager, he says, who set him right. "Don't you dare think that way," she told him. "If you don't do work like that, we just become a nice genteel country theatre. We must have a national focus. We must aim to be an international theatre."

Maybe that, too, should go on his wall; and a little higher than Dickens.

● *King Lear* in New York is in preview tonight and opens tomorrow at Chichester Festival Theatre (0243 781312)

CLASSICAL MUSIC: PREVIEW

Progress on the Eastern front

German, male, unsmiling, sometimes bearded — and invariably dead. That is the popular view of a composer, according to William Rellon, general manager of the Eastern Orchestral Board. It is an image he is determined to change, believing that such fusty misconceptions are a barrier to understanding new music.

Rellon suggests an alternative model. British, male, approachable, amusing, clean-shaven — and unquestionably alive. This is Rellon's Living Composer, an idea and personality celebrated in an Eastern Orchestral Board scheme of the same name.

The Eastern Orchestral Board works in conjunction with local authorities to promote professional orchestral music across the vast and varied territory of the East of England. The region has a proven appetite for orchestral music but was until recently poorly nourished, with no regional orchestra and few suitable venues.

From EOB's London office, Rellon offers advice to orchestras and promoters on programmes and venues. EOB also offers guarantees against loss, using funds from the Arts Council and member authorities' subscriptions. Financial incentives are offered for adventurous concerts, particularly those including new music.

The EOB's Living Composer Scheme, now in its fifth year, highlights a particular composer for a two-year period. During that time, orchestras and promoters are encouraged to programme appropriate works in the region, while the composer participates in creative projects, talks and workshops.

The current Living Composer is not one but two people, David and Colin Matthews, brothers living within a mile of each other on opposite sides of Clapham Common, yet artistically quite distinct. Focus of the Living Composer scheme this summer is the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, directed by John Lubbock, at Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire from today until Thursday. Each of the three evening concerts includes a work by one of the Matthews brothers, imaginatively sandwiched between a Haydn

mass and a Mozart concerto. During the Southwell residency orchestra members will undertake creative community work and informal recitals in youth clubs, schools and a home for the elderly; concerto soloists will coach promising youngsters; Lubbock will direct conducting sessions for A-Level candidates; and the vocal soloists will work with local adult choirs and Minster choristers. The Living Composers themselves will be in evidence throughout, giving talks and classes, assisting local schoolchildren with composition projects and helping them write a fanfare to open each evening's concert.

Though disarmingly self-effacing, both David and Colin Matthews recognise an obligation to pass on their expertise to a new generation. David takes Britten's practical view of the composer as crafts-



In residence: Colin (top) and David Matthews

man and problem-solver, and is particularly looking forward to working with the children on the fanfares. "I don't like music which is far away from elemental human experience, or which exists on a plane of spurious higher thought. That's moving away from people towards machines. Very dangerous."

SUSAN STURROCK
● For Southwell Minster concert details telephone (0602) 419741

DANCE: John Percival on the return to London of the Australian Ballet

Strong enough to stand alone

Six months ago, Australian dancers took every medal — gold, silver and two shared bronzes — at this year's Adeline Genée awards, an international competition held in London by the Royal Academy of Dancing. If it had been a sporting coup it would have been all over the front pages. In fact Australians have been running off with more than their share of the awards for several years now. That quality of dancing, combined with that kind of competitive spirit, goes a long way to explaining the popularity of the Australian Ballet, which opens a two-week London season tonight with its production of *Coppélia*.

The tradition goes back to the days before there even was a national ballet in Australia. Thirty-seven years ago, a 15-year-old girl named Marilyn Jones from New South Wales came to London on a scholarship to the Sadler's Wells school. Before she was out of her teens she had toured America with the Sadler's Wells Ballet, turned down a career at Covent Garden because of homesickness, and made her Sydney debut dancing the lead on the first night



Winning moves: Australian Ballet shines in *Coppélia*

of a new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Another two or three years on, and Jones had danced with the young Rudolf Nureyev as a star of the Cuyas Ballet in France, then joined the newly-formed Australian Ballet, becoming its first world-class ballerina. This week she is back in London with that company, lured out

of retirement to dance the lead in a new ballet by her son Stanton Welch.

Welch is one of several young dancers in the company who have set out to be choreographers, too. His ballet *Of Blessed Memory* is set to several of Camille Saint-Saëns's songs of the *Auvergne*, and develops a misty mood to suggest the many continuing relationships of a child with its mother. The other new Australian ballet being given on this visit is by Stephen Baynes, a gifted character dancer whose offering is *Catalyst*, a plotless work with a theme reflecting the contrasting moods in Poulenc's *Concerto for Two Pianos*.

What these two young creators have in common is the ability to show off the exuberant talents at all levels within the company, which is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year. It is predominantly a young company; even the most experienced

principal dancers joined only eight, nine or ten years ago — either just before, or soon after. Marna Gielgud became director in 1983.

Checkmate. Ninette de Valois's 1937 ballet about chess, which will be seen in a triple bill next week, also exemplifies the changes given in this company to dancers at the beginning of their careers. Jane Fennie is another of Australia's recent Adeline Genée gold medalists (vintage 1989); at 19, she is one of several casts for the Black Queen in *Checkmate*.

Dame Ninette herself has been coaching the dancers in her ballet; Gielgud consistently counteracts Australia's geographical isolation by bringing in experts to work with her dancers. Another neglected English creation from the same period, Antony Tudor's comic *Gala Performance*, has already had the benefit of advice from Maude Lloyd, who created one of its leading roles in 1938.

These two works represent another strand of an artistic policy that has been remarkably consistent over the years. From the first season under its founding director, Peggy van Praagh, right through to today the company has always mingled Australian creations with a selection of great works from the international repertoire of this century as well as the ubiquitous old classics.

The one big difference is that in its early days guest stars had to be invited to strengthen the company's appeal both at home and abroad. Nowadays, though, the Australian Ballet can stand alone without their help.

● The Australian Ballet opens its London season with *Coppélia* tonight at the Coliseum (071-836 3161)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Sinners in the sun

When a new television series is set among expatriates in Spain and seems to focus on sun, sand, sea, siestas, sex and sangria, your first thought is that this must be the latest alliterative Alan Whicker travelogue. But it isn't.

The BBC's new three-nights-a-week drama series, *Eldorado* (BBC 1 last night), starts off looking more like a holiday commercial than the soap operas we are used to on British television. We expect grey northern skies and east London saloon bars. Midlands motels where hammy actors pick up the telephone a fraction before it rings, or else blue skies matched with Australian accents and characters who might at any moment break into a chorus of "I'm so lucky, lucky, lucky."

Judging a new series by only its first episode is as tricky as gauging a restaurant by only

reading its menu. Both have the tough job of persuading choosy customers to bite. *Eldorado* does it by casting more teasing hooklines than a cinema trailer for *Basic Instinct* and *Silence of the Lambs* combined.

Smoothie brute Marcus Tandy throws a girl on to the street, six weeks pregnant, and hurts her suitcase of clothes after her: is he the father? Ageing nightclub singer Trish Valentine has a tiff with her wondrous toyboy Dieter Schultz: is Dieter only interested in her cash? Bunny Charlson, ex-army, late forties, returns from Blighy to a surprise welcome home party. He has his own surprise: he

has married Fitz, a pretty 17-year-old runaway he found begging in London. Has Bunny gone bonkers? A BBC crew arrives to doorstep Tandy. Is it about his porno videos? No, they accuse him of fraud and of fleeing British justice: what has Marcus been up to? And will Tandy get Pilar, the dishy Spanish girl he has just hired to work in his riding stables, into bed?

This kind of rata-tat melo-drama is inevitable in a new series that has to entice viewers into switching on again and again. The fake *Eldorado* village has been built in Spain, the actors are on long options, the BBC has a lot of face to lose if the show falls flat. The

teasers come so fast that when the pace slows, with perhaps 40 consecutive seconds passing without any new turn, you fully expect a mass murderer to enter the scene, or at least a satanic orgy.

But the set looks good, the sunny scenery will look even more attractive in the gloomy British winter. The characters, though initially painted in primary colours to impress themselves onto our consciousness, seem well enough drawn to develop into a community as believable as Coronation Street or Albert Square.

Regular BBC viewers of this slot may be jolted by the cold turkey switch from Terry Wogan. If *Eldorado*'s director could get Bunny or Marcus to give the camera an occasional knowing smirk or boyish wink, the transition might be a little easier.

JOE JOSEPH

ARTS BRIEF

Master classes

BRITAIN is playing host to the 1992 International Workshop Festival, which brings together stars from the world of theatre, dance and circus for master classes. The festival presents an opportunity for 500 professional participants to work with some of the world's leading theatre directors, choreographers and performers in a wide range of master classes, demonstrations, workshops, seminars and discussions. The festival will open in London on August 29 with nine days of international theatre master classes. Later it moves to Bristol for classes led by circus artists, Londonderry for political theatre, and Nottingham for dance.

Last chance

THERE are several versions around of Leonardo da Vinci's composition *Madonna of the Yarnwinder*, and a corresponding ambiguity as to which, if any, of the known paintings is the original. The National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh (031-556 8921) offers a unique opportunity to see the main contenders together and assess the evidence for yourself. Evaluation can continue until Sunday.

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Bon appetit: part two of a gourmet guide

France is famous for its restaurants. But where do you start?
Robin Young completes his gastronomic guide to fifty
of the best he has found in his extensive explorations



some *bonnes bouches* for the latter part of the feast.

Bills for lunch or dinner have usually been £70 to £130 for two. All telephone numbers should be prefixed by 010 33.

PARIS: Lucas-Carton, 9 place Madeleine, Paris 8e, 75008 (42 65 22 90).

Alain Senderens, the *nouvelle cuisine* pioneer, does not do much cooking now, but Bertrand Guéron, his deputy, must also count as one of the great chefs. The smoked eel with beetroot and horseradish, langoustines in tarragon butter, and turbot with squid ink are the stuff of legends.

PARIS: Taillevent, 15 rue Lamennais, Paris 8e, 75008 (45 61 12 90).

The reason for including Senderens's neighbour is that two three-star restaurants could scarcely be more different. Taillevent is the supreme French restaurant for carefully modernised reproduction of classical repertoire — calf's head with truffle jelly, ravioli of curried snails, etc.

ARBOIS: Jean-Paul Jeunet, 9 rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Arbois, 39600 (84 66 05 67).

Jean-Paul's father was a great chef. The son's cooking makes superlative use of herbs and spices. Wild mushroom and savory mousses, lamb consommé with Jerusalem artichokes... original and artistic.

COLMAR: Au Fer Rouge, 52 Grande-Rue, Colmar, 68000 (89 41 37 24).

Reluctant as I am to omit Colmar's Schilling, Patrick Fulgraff's precision with cooking times and imaginative use of savours obliges me to give him preference. Snails in parsleyed chicken broth, John Dory and asparagus in thyme-scented olive butter sauce, and peach tart with almond cream argue in his favour.

DORDOGNE: Le Centenaire, Rocher de la Penne, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, 24620 (53 06 98 15). Roland Mazère is one of the least known of France's golden-fingered chefs. Try his eel and quail in chestnut consommé, or ceps fried with parsley, and you wonder why.

NICE: Le Chantecier, Hôtel Négresco, 37 Promenade des Anglais, Nice, 06000 (93 88 39 51).

Dominique Le Stanc succeeded Jacques Maximin here, and kept

the restaurant's reputation at the pinnacle. His cooking is deliciously delicate, and though he is from Alsace, captures all the scents and flavours of Provence. Bread-crumbed lamb's feet stuffed with ratatouille, sun-dried beans and tomatoes, red mullet with a potato and caviar salad and fantastic risottos are among the fabulous creations.

LOT-ET-GARONNE: L'Aubergade, 52 rue Royale, Puymirat, 47270 (53 95 31 46).

Puymirat is a little beside outside Agen, and now firmly on every European gastronomic campaign map. Michel Trama's cooking is the reason: just the vegetables, polenta chips, snails and parsley butter, and butterflies fashioned of potato are worth the trip. Pigeon with pistachios, *foie gras* and lentils, or cabbage stuffed with rosemary-flavoured guinea fowl and superb desserts are bonuses.

LOIR-ET-CHER: Bernard Robin, 1 avenue Chambord, Bracieux 41250 (54 46 41 22). Handily placed for touring Blois, Chambord and Cour-Cheverny, Bernard Robin's restaurant offers astounding creations such as marble of lamb with smoked *foie gras* served with a salad dressed with pistachio oil, and the world's best jugged hare.

BAS-RHIN: Le Cerf, 30 rue du Cent-de-Gaule, Marlenheim, 67520 (88 87 73 73).

This is high on my list of visits for the Alsace region. Michel Husser, a disciple of Senderens, does a subtle mix of tradition and invention. Monkfish roasted with mustard, choucroute with sucking pig and smoked *foie gras* and *presskopf* with gribiche sauce are among his specialties.

BOUCHES-DU-RHÔNE: L'Oustau de Baumanière, Val d'Enfer, Les Baux-de-Provence, 13520 (90 54 33 07).

Raymond Thullier is old, but still inspires the establishment. Jean-André Chariol, his son-in-law, takes charge, the chef is Alain Burnel, and the restaurant's *petits pois*, green beans and baby carrots from the garden are the 1992 equivalent of Proust's madeleines.

ISÈRE: La Pyramide, 14 boulevard F. Point, Vienne, 38200 (74 53 01 96). What a delight to include this establishment. This was the birthplace of all modern French cookery, and the street is named for Fernand Point, who made it so. Now Patrick Hendrix cooks in the great man's shadow with his own confident style. Try mullet with lime and oregano, pot-au-feu with Cornas or rabbit sauté for proof.

LYON: Paul Bocuse, pont de Collonges, Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or, 69660 (78 22 01 40).

Paul Bocuse, the world's most celebrated chef, has his cooking done for him these days by Roger Jalous and Christian Bouveret. They do it perfectly. The repertoire still includes truffle soup as served to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, mullet rescaled with potatoes, lobster gratin, Fernand Point, and pigeon in puff pastry with *foie gras*. Faultless.

AUVERGNE: Jean-Yves Bath, place Marché St Pierre, Clermont-Ferrand, 63000 (73 31 23 23).

Clermont-Ferrand is now one of those cities where a gastronome faces a difficult choice. Gault-Millaud would prefer the Hôtel Radio at Chamalières, on the city fringe, which it marks two points higher. I have not eaten there. Jean-Yves Bath's specialties seem to me touched with genius: salmon with bacon fat and truffles, and intense chocolatey desserts.

CAP FERRAT: Le Provençal, 2 avenue D-Semier, St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, 06230 (93 76 03 97).

I have not eaten here, but I knew Jean-Jacques Jouteux's cooking years ago at Les Semailles in Montmartre, and know he belongs in my list. Try his lobster with artichoke bottoms, John Dory roasted with olive oil in fig leaves, or duck with tartare fine of potatoes and see whether I am right.

ANNECY: Auberge de l'Éridan, 13 Vieille Route des Pensées, Veyrier-du-Lac, Annecy, 74290 (50 66 24 00).

Installed in a new hotel right on Lake Annecy, Marc Veyrat gets my vote for this region in preference to the longer established Auberge du Père Bise at Talloires. Wonderful pasta-less raviolis made from vegetables sliced into paper-thin sheets, beef with mountain herbs and salads with fresh flowers in them, boned pig's trotters.

LE LAVANDOU: Les Roches, 1 avenue des Trois Dauphins, Aiguebelle, 83980 (94 71 05 07).

Laurent Tarridec, a young Breton, has taken the Var coast by storm with his sardines with aromatic herbs and sweet pepper purée, cold roast rabbit with aubergine and langoustines with coriander.

VERSAILLES: Les Trois Marchés, 1 boulevard de la Reine, Versailles, 78000 (39 50 13 21).

In the restaurant of the Trianon Palace hotel, Gérard Vié does startlingly simple things exquisitely. Super salads with no fewer than 17 herbs, brilliant vegetable cookery and astonishing pastries.



Magical menus: Marc Veyrat, installed in a new hotel on Lake Annecy, creates wonderful pasta-less raviolis from sliced vegetables

LANDES: Pain, Adour et Fantaisie, 7 place des Tilleuls, Grenade-sur-Adour, 40270 (58 45 18 80).

Didier Oudil worked for years with Michel Guérard. Changing his menus every ten days, he does not rest on the laurels he has already won for his terrine of calf tongue and potato, and goose-filled cannelloni and sweetcorn fritters.

GASCONY: Hôtel de France, 2 place de la Liberté, Auch, 32000 (62 05 00 44).

André Daguin is the supreme chef of Gascony, and king of *foie gras*, butry also blanquette of kid, leg of Pyréenne lamb, and kebabs of salmon with ceps and gizzards.

LOIRET: Auberge des Templiers, Les Bézards, 45290 (38 31 80 01).

Denis Cros, the chef, was recruited after working with Guérard, Robuchon and Girardet, and *sauvage* from the Loire, rabbits of the Solange and lamb of Sisteron are among the ingredients with which he works wonders.

TOULOUSE: Les Jardins de l'Opéra, 1 place Capitole, Toulouse, 31000 (61 23 07 76).

In the restaurant of the Grand Hôtel de l'Opéra Dominique Toulouse hits top C every time with, for instance, salads of artichokes and cokes, and veal chop on a ragout of green vegetables.

ROUEN: GIL, 9 quai Bourse, Rouen, 76000 (35 71 16 14).

Gilles Tournadre, a graduate of Lucas-Carton and Taillevent, is one of the brightest of the young generation of French chefs. His fish consommé, turbot with cider and chutney and sweetbreads with pig's ears are delicate and delicious.

BIARRITZ: Les Frères Ibarboure, Chemin de Tallieu, Biarritz, 64210 (59 54 81 64).

I was lucky enough to be one of the first customers when this delightful pavilion 9km from Biarritz opened four years ago to instant success. Philippe does the fish and meat, Martin the pastries, and their menus at £200 are ravishing.

LA ROCHELLE: Richard Costeac, plage de la Concorde, La Rochelle, 17000 (46 41 48 19).

Do not be deterred by the crowded bistro appearance of the dining-room, overlooking the sea. The oyster *feuilleté*, seafood dishes and *crème brûlée* are delectable.

LANGUEDOC: ROUSSILLON: La Tamarisière, 21 quai Théophile Cornu, Agde, 34300 (67 94 20 87).

In a renovated seaside hotel, Nicolas Albano delights guests with scallop salads, langoustines in citric juices, and medallions of lamb with saffron. The lunch menu is only FF140.

Passport to France Times/WineShare competition: win part of a French vineyard

Name your own vintage

THIS is the third day of your chance to become a vigneron and drink the wines from your vineyard until the vintage of 2002. The Times, in association with WineShare, is giving readers the chance to own 150 vines for ten years at the Domaine du Grand Mayne, in the Côte de Duras Appellation Contrôlée district of France. These vines will produce up to 30 cases of wine every year.

This quality wine-producing area borders on the Bordeaux Appellation and its wines are made from classic Bordeaux varieties — cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot, sauvignon blanc, semillon and muscadelle.

Your first year's produce, the 1992 vintage, will be picked this autumn. The wine will be made and shipped to you, free next spring by WineShare. You will receive 30 cases (360 bottles) of wine — red, white or both according to your taste. The bottles will be labelled with your name.

As part of the prize, the winner and a partner will visit the vineyard this autumn, flying to Bordeaux for a exhilarating long weekend in the French countryside. There you can help pick the grapes and eat and drink in style among the vines in the *chai* where your wine will be gently fermenting. The weekend will include visits to the surrounding vineyards of Duras and the Bordeaux area, with plenty of opportunities to try the local cuisine and, of course, the different wines.



Thirsty work: picking grapes in a French vineyard

Ten runners up will each receive a one year lease on a 50-vine row at Domaine du Grand Mayne and the produce from these vines — ten cases from the 1992 vintage, labelled and delivered free to your home by WineShare.

How to enter: answer the question below and keep a note of your answer. Question four, will appear tomorrow (the first of the four appeared in Saturday's Weekend Times). Having answered all four questions, send your answers on a postcard with your name, address and daytime



telephone number to: The Times/WineShare Competition, 5 Britons Court, London, EC8R 6NG.

QUESTION 3

Some Duras wines are matured in wooden casks called *barriques*. What sort of wood are they made from?

Rules: The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd, WineShare, their families or agents are not eligible. Entries must be received by Monday July 20, 1992.

Winners will be notified by Friday July 24, 1992. The editor's decision is final. Times competition rules apply, available on request.

Fruit of the vine

WineShare began in 1986 when hundreds of British investors joined forces to share in a vineyard, Domaine du Grand Mayne, in the appellation contrôlée area of Côte de Duras.

WineShare's aim is to produce quality wine at an affordable price and to give investors the fun and involvement of owning their own row of vines and sharing in the produce of a French Domaine.

WineShare will launch a second vineyard, Chateau Constantin-Chevalier at Lourmarin in the Côte de Luberon, in Provence, next year. To reserve a row at either vineyard you must decide how much wine from your own vines you would order each year. 150 vines will produce 30 cases of wine.

The rental cost on 150 vines is £150 a year plus VAT. If 30 cases of wine a year is too much for you, a row of 50 vines will produce ten cases for an annual rent of £50 plus VAT. All you pay for after that is the cost of producing the wine and the cost of shipping it to you. Subscribers are kept up to date with a twice-yearly bulletin. Other benefits include a personalised label.

Readers of The Times who wish to subscribe to WineShare will receive a 10 per cent discount on the first year's rental. For fuller information write to WineShare, 40 Longley Road, Tooting Graveney, London, SW17 9LL or call 081 672 9967, quoting ref: THE TIMES. This offer is valid until December 31, 1992.

Looking for nasty shocks



The French have their own way of doing things, as any jolly driver will testify. Another difference between the British and the French is the attitude taken to the structural state of the homes we buy. In Britain, most houses are bought "subject to survey", whereas in France house surveys are thin on the ground and used only in *extremis*, and at great expense.

This does not mean there is no need to bother and if you are in any doubt as to the state of a house call in a *géomètre* (surveyor). But if, as I was, you are buying an old rural house with walls 2ft thick that has been standing for 200 years, the chances of its being in perfect condition or, conversely, falling down in your lifetime are slim.

The best middle course between a surveyor and your own (rose-tinted) assessment is to call in a local builder, preferably French, or an English one who has been in France for several years. He will be able to give a good idea as to what is wrong with the house and how much urgency there is in putting it right.

And use your eyes. Damp is a frequent problem in old houses because they lack a damp-proof course, but it need not be expensive. Except in the worst cases the solution may well be to coat walls with a sealer before painting them. Equally, cracks in walls may look alarming but remember



that horizontal ones are not usually serious. Vertical cracks could mean subsidence but a vertical crack that only shows internally may mean only poor plastering or a badly fitted window nearby.

When the cost of improving an old French house gets out of hand, the whole exercise can turn sour, so be clear from the start which problems you can live with and which you want solved at what cost. Assume that renovating a house that consists only of four walls and a dodgy roof will be at least as much as you paid for the house.

Two of the main sources of



nasty shocks involve the roof and electrical circuits. I said last week that often roof leaks can be solved by re-aligning a few slates but if the roof needs replacing you may have to spend more than £10,000 on a three bedroom house. Rewiring the same house can cost £2,000 or more.

Those amounts are large (although no larger than they would be in the UK) for the same reason: replacing something invariably costs more than the same job started from scratch in a new house. There are the labour costs involved in tearing out the old material plus extras that arise when

new problems are uncovered by the workmen. One often overlooked factor in re-wiring an old house that could well be found to have an unearthed circuit when you buy it is insurance. You may know an English electrician who would welcome a fortnight's free holiday in exchange for re-wiring the house and he will doubtless do the job to the highest English standards. But France has very clear regulations about electricity and they differ from ours. Unless the work meets French standards, you will not get insurance.

Sometimes the more obvious flaws are the cheapest to put right. A room may not have a floor, for example, often because in the old days people sheltered animals in back rooms. But builders in France are now so used to this kind of work, especially for English people, that putting a floor in a room the size of an average lounge can cost as little as £200 and be done in two days.

One final warning: paint in France comes in two varieties. There is expensive paint that will stay on the walls and cheap paint that will fall off. The sort you want costs about 50 per cent more in France than it would here, so take a few tips with you. That, and other DIY material, should not unduly exercise French customs as it qualifies for relief under EC regulations. But it is best to check with the customs section of the French embassy (071-833 0142).

PETER BARNARD

NEXT WEEK:
Paying for the house

Caring, sharing, scaring

Libby Purves considers stories of sick infants and whether they do anything other than create anxiety

Early last year, eight-month-old Nella Bevor lay in intensive care, oxygen hood over her head, her tiny body lost in a network of tubes and electrodes.

Did that grab your attention? If you have a baby, the odds are that your eye went straight to that sentence at the expense of everything else on the page. The odds are also that you will read on, wanting to know whether Nella survived and whether there is any message for you. If you are away from your own baby, you may shortly ring home on some mock-casual pretext. The effect, in other words, will be disproportionate to the intrinsic interest, relevance or literary merit of the story. To put it crudely, sick babies are box-office.

Nella does survive, and is today a strapping two-year-old. But although the account of her illness by her mother, Aramis Cooper, in *Watching in the Dark* (John Murray, £9.95, published on July 16), is a high-class production, unsentimental and medically interesting, it nonetheless represents a genre which some nervous parents and grandparents may feel is getting out of hand. No women's weekly magazine or tabloid newspaper feels complete without its miracle baby, tragic freak accident or heartbreak too; no consumer programme likes to be without a new death-dealing hazard to infants, whether it be a peanut or a pit bull.

Crime and accident reports focus on the misfortunes of children because every parent will be drawn to them: film-makers cynically raise the emotional temperature of their offerings by lingering on children captured, orphaned, home alone or grappling with psychopathic nannies. Television crews poke their lenses eagerly at the plastic cots of desperate 2lb scraps of humanity.

Even novelists are increasingly using the image of a child in peril to add tension to their books. The American thriller writer Mary Higgins Clark has made a creepy speciality of it down at the airport-bookstall end of the market, but even Melvyn Bragg, that most adult of literary novelists, begins his latest, *Crystal Rooms*, with the image of Harry, aged 11, waking violently from a nightmare: "He wanted his mother to be near, but in the same split instant he knew that he would never see her again..." We are compelled to read on, irrespective of pleasure, just to find out if he gets saved from being a rent-boy (he does).

Parents have always had fears. But this is an increasingly paranoid and fearful society, overfed on sensational information. What is more, it is one where most young adults lose touch with real and robust ordinary children for years

before they have any. So we are suckers for horror stories about children. Some are useful: a mother with a secret mental picture of her waxen-faced child on a drip with gastro-enteritis will sterilise bottles carefully. And every parent knows that the unemployable babysitter is the one who lacks a morbid imagination: you can tell a reliable one because she or he will look around a room for danger almost before looking at the child. One couple I know used deliberately to plant a plastic bat or a sharp stick in the toddler's empty bedroom, and expected new sitters to pounce instinctively on the dangerous object.

'People do want to read these things'

So we become greedy readers of public health warnings, consumer shock-horror stories and reports of freak disaster. We learn to mistrust aspirins, strawberries (allergy), ponds in drought (Well's disease) and fluff (killer house mites). We read every crime report in the hope that the benevolent parents were letting the child do something that we wouldn't have. All these things, kept in proportion (harder than it sounds), are unexceptionable and more or less useful.

But then comes the next stage. In order to face up to our worst fears and outstare them, we lap up the genre of stories known in women's magazines as TOT — triumph over tragedy. Miracle babies who survived heartbreak ones who didn't. Some of this genre of writing is attached, more or less firmly, to medical interest and charitable appeals. There is no doubt that Anthony Nolan's short life contributed to bone marrow surgery, and Doran Scott's story to the rehabilitation of handicapped children. But not all of it does any such thing. A lot is pure emotion.

Jane Reed, who as editor of *Woman and Woman's Own* in the 1970s was responsible for many a medical shocker, defends the triumph-over-tragedy genre as both popular and inspiring. "The best story is the human interest story. Always was, always will be. Reading about a family's courage gave other people sustenance." But she detects a definite change in recent years. "What perturbs me in the bestselling weeklies is that the pieces are so much shorter. We did very long accounts, with doctors and psychologists and medical facts in a box at the side. We put things into context. Now it's more sharply accented."

Looking through a random sheaf of the weeklies, it is easy to see what she means. A short "Personal Story" page in *Best*, about a boy with head injuries from a bike accident, is readable, identifiable with, but gives no medical insight or help and only a sketch of the psychological effect.

In *Nella*, we have a "special girl" of four weeks old whose



Hard to resist: the story of Nella Bevor, who survived a terrible illness, typifies the triumph-over-tragedy genre

birthmarks swelled up and nearly choked her. Again, it is exquisite and filled with cliché. In *Chat*, a teenage cancer. As a parent, one compulsively reads them: as a reader, one feels exploited by a kind of casual, knee-jerk ghouliness in the editorial process.

Ms Reed says kindly: "Well, they're not shock horror. This has to be the next to the strawberry shortcake. What people actually want is the triumph of the human spirit."

But nothing to put them off the shortcake.

And so to the triumph of Nella and her mother. The baby suffered intussusception of the bowel — a not uncommon complication of a viral infection which destroyed the villi in her gut. She was saved by an experimental remedy, epidermal growth factor. Ms Cooper was not previously a reader of TOT stories. "Oh Lord, no. When she was born I used to read about cot death with a certain morbid curiosity. You scan it for some clue as to how to stop it. But I didn't really give disease a thought."

Her normal subjects are far

from the infant world: historical portraits like her book *Cairo in the War*, so the story of how Nella's struggle got into print says much about the market's demand for TOT. A friend, the deputy editor of *Harpers & Queen*, asked her to write about it. The article duly appeared and was read by a BBC producer who had a baby the same age. Grieved, she invited Ms Cooper to tell her story again. Whereon enquiries followed about adapting the story for television, and finally an approach from a publisher.

"So I wrote it. Yes, I did have doubts. But it was a story with a double happy ending, personal and medical. I was careful not to wangle heartstrings too much — after all, Nella's going to read this book one day. But I don't mind her knowing, for instance, that we asked the doctors not to keep her alive in pain unnecessarily." Ms Cooper admits that she wrote the original draft rather badly, and was urged to put more of her feelings into it by her editor. "I mean, it was glaringly obvious to me how you'd feel if your child was blown up and purple and surrounded by tubes. I was rather British and embar-

assed about expressing it. But people do want to read these things. And readers, parents, are on your side from the start." So the very subject is a short cut to success? "I suppose it is. But believe me, it's a one-off. I am now working on Paris after the liberation."

For the magazines, though, and the soap hospital dramas, and the film-makers and cer-

tain novelists, there is no return to the ordinary robust world where the worst thing that happens to most children is that they grow up. They are hooked on the eternally fascinating, eternally profitable buzz of surrogate terror and compassion. It is up to the rest of us to stop them getting too far under our skin, quiveringly sensitive parental skin.

New bugs start here

Ninety-nine times out of a hundred when parents say to their children, I know how you feel, they are lying. I was young once. I can remember, we tell them. We cannot. Time has demoted the memory and we belittle their experience.

The rawness of rejection when you have not been invited to the party everyone else is frocking up for the anxiety of setting off for a Monday morning spelling test when you lost the list of words last Friday. None of it feels to have mattered to us then, as it matters to them now.

In our family, the hundredth time is up. I really do know how my son feels. By a quirk of synchronicity, he will be starting at a new school in September, the day after I begin a new job. This week we have both been visiting our new premises acquainting ourselves with our future colleagues and meeting our masters. Exciting, terrifying stuff for us both.

I feel he is the luckier; he has been able to take his Mummy and Daddy with him. As a family, we have just completed our fourth guided tour of the school. We have inspected the gym, admired the displayed artwork and thrilled at the pickled reptiles in the lab.

We were then invited to view the full uniform — resplendently arranged and looking as it would never look again when owned by an 11-year-old boy. My son gulped hard. No more street-cred trainers, trendy tracksuit or duvet-comfy anorak.

During the past weeks, I have wondered, riffling through my outmoded mother-and-working-hack's wardrobe before meeting my new colleagues, what garb was suitable for each occasion. Does anyone still wear power-shouldered suits for a board meeting? Would flat shoes be sensible when tramping round town office-shopping for new premises? If only my new employers had supplied a similarly specific uniform list.

Then came the highlight of the evening: boys' question time. Parents had already had their chance to quiz the staff about numbers of computers and university places, class sizes and the cost of hiring a cello. This session was strictly for the boys. A master circled the hall with a mobile microphone so that next year's boys



DAVINA LLOYD

could ask a panel of last year's new boys what they really wanted to know.

How many cricket teams do you have? What are the dinners like? Is there a lot of homework? Are there any funny books in the library? What kind of punishments do they give you? What are the advantages and disadvantages of not having girls in the school?

The schoolboy panel fielded the queries like professionals, a year away from being new bugs themselves. Three cricket teams, we were told. School dinners were "pretty good". Homework was set only in manageable proportions and all subjects humorous and otherwise could be accessed by Dewey classification.

Nobody seemed to have much personal experience of punishment, but it was thought to range from writing lines to coming in on Saturday morning for major misdemeanours. On the subject of single-sex education, one lad could not imagine any disadvantages. But his friend added meaningfully, "apart from the obvious ones". The new boys nodded in silent understanding. If they didn't know the obvious, they weren't letting on.

Such sensible initiation. Why hadn't I put such practical posers to my new colleagues? Had I thought to ask, as I left with five fat files of background reading, is there much homework? Did I think to mention on an office-hunting day that ended with a cheddar sandwich at 4.30, what are the dinners like? I suppose I will just have to believe what I tell my son. The blazer won't always be so stiff. Of course, you'll make new friends. Honestly, you'll love it when you get there.

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When baby has feathers

Some youngsters seem never to want to leave the family nest

Anyone who thinks adolescent youths eat a lot should try a couple of weeks with a fledgling blackbird. The bird's name is Henry (sic) because at this age it is impossible to know what sex it is. We acquired it nearly three weeks ago.

We are not, it seems, alone. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds receives 3,500 calls a year on bringing up baby birds and even takes on an extra enquiry officer during the peak period of April to July. Blackbirds and sparrows are the most commonly found, mainly because a pair can have three or four broods a year.

We found ours on the lawn after hearing its parents screaming at next door's cat. We stuck an old blackbird's nest up in a tree — its own was out of reach — and spent the day watching its parents fly back and forth past it. They made no attempt to feed it so, using tiny tweezers, we offered it a worm; it wobbled it.

The bird made repeated attempts to fly, but only plopped to the ground. At nightfall we took it indoors, expecting it to die and preparing the kids for the worst. At 4am it was alive and chirruping robustly.

The RSPB answered all the urgent questions and sent us detailed leaflets. We became entirely in thrall to the bird and its eating habits, unable to go into the kitchen without being cheeped at reproachful-



A bird in the hand: Anna taking care of young Henry

ly. Respite is gained only by going out — and then we have to hire bird-sitters.

For a family whose idea of gardening is to cut back the convolvulus only when it threatens to strangle the children, we have done a vast amount of digging. Seven-year-old Anna, who until now has been thinking of turning vegetarian, is not even daunted by the fact that the bigger worms have to be chopped up, although it is noticeable that

nobody has asked for spaghetti lately.

Henry is now completely tame. We did not intend this, but perhaps it was inevitable when we have been collectively its carter, nursemaid and landlady. Every day we put it on the wall or the bird table to get used to the environment to which we hope it will return, and every day it can do a little more. It can fly, preen, drink and bathe.

It caught its first worm, to

wild applause, and escaped its first predator. Now it spends most of its time outdoors, returning for supplementary snacks and the occasional snooze on a shelf. There has been one dreadful incident when our neighbour found tailfeathers on his lawn at dusk, and a cat skulking in the shrubbery. We passed a frightful night imagining the worst but Henry reappeared, minus half a tail but plus, we hope, a bit of street wisdom.

The experience has been a curious telescoping of the years of human parenting: from the early days of dawn feeds, constant checks and earnest discussions on bowel movement, through the first clumsy flights and attempts to feed, to its current adolescence, where we worry about the company it is keeping and whether it can fend for itself.

Most hand-reared birds do not survive, according to Valerie Osborne, an enquiry officer with the RSPB, which recommends, wherever possible, leaving them in a safe place where the parents can look after them. "But if the bird does not survive we always say to people: 'Please understand, it was almost certainly not your fault. And you gave it extra time that it would not have had otherwise.'"

● RSPB enquiry office: phone 0167 680551.

LIZ GILL

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Management Services Officer

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MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY JULY 7 1992

Pride without the prejudice

Howard Davies, the director general of the CBI, says a staff college will produce a new generation of high-calibre public sector managers

A top management revolution has started in the public sector, particularly in the local government and the NHS. The traditional authorities at the top of health authorities and councils are being turned into corporate chief executives, who need a quite different mix of skills and attitudes.

The head of a local authority now has a function much closer to that of a corporate chief executive than to his (or, still very rarely, her) antecedent, the town clerk. As well as overseeing the interface between politics and management within the authority, he is the officer best placed to perform strategic planning functions, which have now been thrown into prominence by the imminence of the Local Government Review, to convert policies into action and, in this new era of charters and organisational transparency, to assess the authority's performance against targets.

This new role makes heavy demands on his personal resources: he is now more explicitly required to exercise leadership qualities, and may need to acquire more skills in resource management, strategic planning and negotiation.

The head of an NHS hospital, whose role has developed in the space of a decade from secretary through general manager, to chief executive, runs a big business, with full control of his own budget but without guaranteed income and with the added responsibility of attracting and retaining customers from among health authority purchasing agents and fund-holding family doctors.

To enable him to cope in this new environment he will need expertise in marketing and promotion, ability to generate enthusiasm and a sense of corporate identity within the organisation, and an emphasis on balancing the books, which under the old "centrally planned economy" was never a priority.

Seen in isolation, these changes may appear relatively insignificant, and may initially affect the training needs of only one or two individuals. Viewed as a whole,

they constitute a revolution leaving few parts of the public sector untouched.

Many public sector organisations are certainly looking more like businesses than ever. Where will all these new skills and dynamic managers come from? Some think the logical next step is to recruit private sector managers, who know how to succeed in a competitive environment.

However, we should not get so carried away by these new developments that we lose sight of those aspects of public sector management that are not necessarily in the business executive's psyche, including the "public servant" ethos — the awareness of democratic accountability for one's actions, and the acute consciousness that one is handling money levied by compulsory taxation. Wastefulness is not



Davies: new skills are needed

only bad management, it is also theft from the taxpayer.

There should, and probably will, be more movement of personnel between the two sectors in the next few years. This two-way traffic, however, must not be our only means of importing innovation.

There is inadequate training for senior managers within public services. At present, it is compartmentalised. For example, the civil service and the police service each operates its own top management college.

However, the dividing line between central government civil servants, NHS managers and local authority officials is now much less clear than previously. For a variety of reasons. For one thing, many civil servants have been displaced outside London and put into agencies that concentrate on service delivery, just like local authorities. Since the Bains report into local government efficiency, councils have also gone some way towards developing a cadre of general managers who look and act more like civil servants. And closer operational links between

the centre and local authorities have grown up in many service areas — social services, education, and even the police.

All these developments strengthen the case for creating and exploiting a national source of officials competent to operate across the public sector. This would have the advantage of removing the "them and us" division and the notion that local government officials, or people involved in direct service delivery, are a lower class of person.

This would also increase central government's understanding of conditions on the ground, reducing the likelihood of mishaps such as the poll tax. It would open up the possibility of rotating excellent people through different parts of the public sector and would provide a great boost to management in local government.

This would not necessarily be inconsistent with local authorities' right to appoint their own people. There would, however, be a richer

pool from which to choose, and civil servants wanting to switch would not have to leave for ever, as is now the case.

By far the best way to produce such a body of people is to begin at the training and recruitment end. At the moment, grubby folk from the provinces are admitted to the Civil Service College only at the top management programme level, by which time they are clearly set on particular career paths, and regard each other as different animals.

I believe there should be a more broadly based staff college, cutting across these compartments and producing a cadre of high-calibre public sector managers with the skills to adapt to reform. This college would provide a common core of training for all public servants, with adaptable modules specifically for trainees in the civil service, the NHS and local government.

In this way, the public sector could free itself of the inferiority complex that now prompts individuals, inside and outside, to assume that efficient management is a private sector phenomenon.

● The author is former controller of the Audit Commission.

The Citizen's Charter raises many important questions about local democracy and effective management. Edward Fennell reports



Charter architect John Major must depend on others to turn his rhetoric into reality

Persuading the public that the Citizen's Charter has real substance is high on the list of government priorities. But John Major, as the architect of the charter concept, finds himself largely dependent on other organisations to turn the rhetoric into reality. There remains a distinct danger that local councils and other public bodies will either be slow in drawing up their local charters, or frame them in platitudes.

One authority that has been quick to make specific commitments — and professes itself keen to be judged publicly by what it achieves — is Cambridgeshire County Council. As the prime minister's own local authority, Cambridgeshire achieved the distinction of being the first county council to have gone public on the charter, engaging John Major himself to launch it at Huntingdon in February this year. Cambridgeshire's charter has several strands, including wider choice and greater openness. But the key to its long-term success lies in persuading the electorate that the charter will be a useful tool by which to measure and raise standards of performance.

"In the run-up to publishing the charter, we extensively researched the kind of standards we were achieving in our services to the public," explains Robert Pearson, a council spokesman. "From that research, we were able to analyse 'best practice', and we have adopted that best practice for the county council as a whole."

By opting for the best rather than the mediocre, the council recognises that it may have handed a hostage to fortune. Many departments may be hard pressed to achieve the

You judge us says council

new standards that have been set for them.

"It is only by adopting standards that some departments may be unable to reach, at least initially, that we can be confident that we will raise standards," Mr Pearson comments.

Virtually every department and service in Cambridgeshire now has its own statements of what it is trying to achieve, and the measures by which it can be judged. For example, in the library service, there is a commitment to stock "the widest appropriate range of

fiction and non-fiction titles for loan, with 50 per cent of books under five years old... Eighty per cent of materials will be supplied within four working weeks."

Meanwhile, in social services, there is a promise to acknowledge questions of complaints within five working days, and to give a reply to simple problems within two weeks. So as well as telling the public what it aims to do, the council has been precise in defining how efficiently it should do it.

To make these standards

stick, a monitoring system needs to be established. Cambridgeshire claims to have devised an effective method that will not overload staff with yet more paperwork.

"As a management tool, the information we collect on levels of performance is vital," Mr Pearson says. "Of course, it will take time and effort, but it is essential that we do so."

The first information to be publicly available on the extent to which standards are being met will be available in about six months' time, and reports on individual departments

will then be produced on an annual basis. "There is support for the standards from all political parties locally, not least because the opposition groups see that the charter's standards can provide a potential stick with which to beat the ruling group," he says. "So when the results are published, they will be looked at with great interest by all."

At this stage, it is hard to predict how well the various services will emerge from the first review. As the authority admits, it is on a "steep learning curve", and nobody can yet judge whether the standards are too stringent or too slack.

The danger is that if performance severely undercuts the targets, the authority may decide to lower the targets on the grounds that this is justified by a lack of resources. Unless the charter cranks up management, its purpose will be missed.

Now the twain really meet

Public service and private employment were once seen as mutually exclusive options, but they need each other's skills, states a report by SRU Ltd, commissioned by Saxton Bamfylde International, an executive search company. Saxton Bamfylde is often asked to recommend suitable candidates willing to transfer, but finds a problem with the misconceptions that each side has about the other.

The research was based on interviews with senior managers from the public and private sectors. Both "sides", they found, tended to misunderstand and so misjudge the priorities, objectives, processes and cultures on the other side of the divide. It was not a misrepresentation to describe the public sector view of the private as venal and vulgar, and the private sector's opinion of the public as inefficient.

The purpose of the public sector was considered to be the development and implementation of policy — the public good — while that of the private was variously described as "achieving a superior return on capital invested, increasing shareholder value and making the bottom line look better".

Switching between business and the civil service is becoming easier for executives

commercial organisations, and each side can benefit from cross-fertilisation.

Sue Street and Jim Barron have crossed over, the one from the Home Office and the Cabinet Office to Price Waterhouse, the other from banking and insurance to the Cabinet Office.

Mrs Street is now the supervising consultant in Price Waterhouse's public management consultancy division. Formerly an assistant secretary (grade 5) in the Cabinet Office, she was the course director for the Top Management Programme, which brings together top managers from the public and private sectors.

"It was thought important for senior civil servants to understand how top managers in the private sector ran their businesses," she says. "There was an unforeseen benefit. The private sector found that the dispassionate analysis that civil servants exercise could prove useful to business."

Originally attracted to the public sector because of a real interest in politics and the ethic of public service, Mrs Street says she was also a classic victim of prejudice against industry and commerce. "My expectations were

largely fulfilled in the civil service," she explains. "I had plenty of high-profile, politically fascinating and intellectually demanding work, but because of the size, nature and equity by which the organisation rules, it cannot allow people to do as much as they feel capable of, as early as they would like."

Why did she leave? "I certainly was not disaffected by my career but my personality is fairly open to risk and new challenges. The top management programme opened my eyes to the sort of excitement that is available in the private sector, where your success is very much in your own hands and results are on a more dramatic time scale."

Some of her preconceptions about the private sector had been wrong, some right. She had expected and found a hard-driving "can do" mentality; a commitment to profitability (but had not realised how great that was). She had expected to find a less hierarchical structure. She knew the systems would be efficient but was stunned by the degree of detail required. In addition, she had not expected so great a concern to cut overheads and achieve high-quality work despite stretched administrative support.

Mr Barron also wanted a



Swapping sides: Sue Street

change. What particularly appealed to him about the civil service was the breadth of challenge and flexibility he could expect. With Sun Alliance, he worked on management development training and management systems, and was involved with a fundamental rethink of business methods. In the Cabinet Office, to which he was recruited as a principal (grade 7), his first job was concerned particularly with management development and training. He then moved to the European staffing unit, encouraging more graduates to work for the European Community. Now in the Citizen's Charter Unit, he is one of a team working to improve public services.

One misconception was that there would not be enough work. "I have never worked harder in my life," he says. "The greatest shock was to find out how much change had to be achieved by paperwork. I have also had to learn Civil Service speak."

Mr Barron was also concerned that the process of change might be drawn-out and in ways, it has. "Many practices had been around for a long time and, because they had always done things in a particular way, people were slow to ask why," he says.

Mrs Street and Mr Barron have not burnt their boats. Asked whether they would ever switch back to their original sector, both were ready to consider any interesting job with career prospects.

JOAN LLEWELYN OWENS

Assistant Director Project Development

£40,000

The National Museum of Science & Industry is the world's pre-eminent museum devoted to the history and contemporary practice of science, technology, industry and medicine. It serves approximately 3 million people annually and its collections are the most significant and comprehensive in their field anywhere.

The Museum wishes to appoint an Assistant Director to head a new Project Development Division established to provide improved planning, co-ordination and management of the Museum's project programme. This comprises major building works including a £2 million environmentally controlled collections store and the implementation of the Gallery Plan — a continuing programme of renewal and refurbishment of the permanent galleries and associated facilities. Reporting to the Director of the Museum, the person appointed will also be responsible, through the management of the Museum's Architectural Adviser and newly appointed Head of Design, for the setting and maintenance of design standards throughout the Museum. This embraces building works and the gallery programme, minor projects, signing and graphics, house style and print.

The Project Development Division will have a small permanent staff supplemented by multi-disciplinary project groups and the support of outside consultants.

The successful candidate must have a good degree in a relevant discipline coupled with extensive experience of co-ordinating and directing professional and technical staff in the implementation of building and/or exhibition projects. Familiarity with the interpretative and educational requirements of modern science museums and science centres would be a distinct advantage.

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The National Museum of Science & Industry
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Still expressing too much trivia

The *Sunday Express* shrinks to tabloid at last — but the content is little changed

Fifteen years after its daily stablemate, the *Sunday Express* finally acknowledged the need for change at the weekend and became a tabloid.

It seems incredible that the owners delayed so long before taking this logical step away from the broadsheet format, watching a gradual decline of readership and allowing the rival *Mail on Sunday* to overtake it and to build a two million circulation.

That dithering struck home more forcibly once one saw the new tabloid, since the change was accomplished without any apparent alteration to the *Sunday Express*'s character. True, there was a different typeface, Nova, but it was hardly a revolutionary departure. In newspaper design terms it looked "clean" while retaining its "busy" style.

At 96 pages, plus a colour magazine, the newspaper does now offer direct competition to *The Mail on Sunday*, although I hardly imagine its editor Stewart Steven, losing much sleep.

The *Sunday Express* front page was largely devoted to the continuing obsession with the Princess of Wales's health and the state of her marriage. So important was the "scoop" that a "world exclusive" on yet another newspaper craze of the moment, Adolf Hitler, was relegated to second place. That story claimed that Russian secret service men, acting on Stalin's direct orders, buried Hitler's body in Magdeburg.

Elsewhere, there was some of the normal *Sunday Express* fare we have come to expect since Eve Pollard became editor more than a year ago — a fashion spread on Norma Major, lots of entertainment and yet more royal revelations, this time involving the Princess Royal.

One of the key selling points was

a money-off offer for classical compact discs and a contest to win Ford cars.

The relentless glamour and frothiness are the main differences from the *Mail on Sunday*. The serious content in the *Sunday Express* looks as if it is window dressing, rather than an integral part of the paper.

In a tabloid, achieving this kind of balance, or pace, is very difficult and it will undoubtedly need some consideration in succeeding weeks.

After all, the success of the *Mail on Sunday* has been built on its image of being a serious tabloid, providing its readers with social campaigns and hard-edged investigations, along

with a Review section, where entertainment and the arts are treated without pomposity but never fall into the trap of fawning.

The *Sunday Express* — using the slogan "Britain's only quality Sunday tabloid" — does not yet seem to have worked out a philosophy deserving of that claim. It falls much closer to the mass market tabloids where "interviews" and titillation, such as the front page blurb for an article, "In bed with Catherine Zeta-Jones", suffice. It will not dent the *Mail on Sunday* in the long term if it relies on being too trivial.

The other weakness is the colour magazine. *The Mail on Sunday's* *You* is better in terms of quality, quantity and content. But since Ms Pollard used to edit *You*, doubtless she has a re-vamp in mind for the magazine, which also needs extra money because it contains too little content to add substantial value to the paper.

With a circulation of 1.6 million, the boardroom of Express Newspapers must be wondering why they gave the *Mail on Sunday* such an advantage and did not make the transformation years ago.

ROY GREENSLADE



They've come a long way: Reg Smythe, 75 this week, says of an early Andy Capp strip: "Good God! It seems horrible now!"

Reg who? Joseph Connolly tracks down the man who gave the world Andy Capp

One of Britain's most consistently successful cartoonists this week celebrates his 75th birthday, but there will be no in-depth profiles, no talking back to Clive Anderson, no shenanigans at all, simply because to most people outside his profession the name Reg Smythe means nothing. Nothing, that is, until mention is made of his enduring creation: Andy Capp, the literate and economically drawn strip which has appeared in the *Daily Mirror* for 35 years.

Nor is the popularity of the drunken little pigeon-fancying idler confined to this country as one might expect, given the peculiarly British nature of the comedy (and dated working-class northern British at that). The strip is syndicated to more than 1,400 newspapers world-wide, including nearly 1,000 in America. In Europe Capp reveals its true monickers as Tufta Viktor (Sweden) as well as the more literal André Chapéau in France and Angelo Capello in Italy. Germany knows him as Willi Wakker. The only other strip cartoonists to enjoy such coverage are Charles Schulz (Peanuts) and Jim Davis (Garfield).

Andy Capp, then, has generated an enormous amount of money, but not the commensurate fame for his creator. These days, this is more or less the way Mr Smythe wants it: many years ago he gave up on London and returned to his native Hartlepool, where he lives modestly with his wife, Vera. He says he has no hobbies apart from drawing Andy Capp, but other sources reveal that he keeps pigeons, is a crack snooker player and admires James Cagney. Here, mercifully, the similarities to Andy end.

The contrast between today's rather private lifestyle and the ambition of Mr Smythe's younger days is well illustrated by the reaction of the secretary of the Cartoonists' Club of Great Britain, Charles Sinclair, when I asked him for background information. Sinclair had none, suggested that Mr Smythe had become more or less a recluse — a largely unfounded rumour that has been circulating for years — and doubted whether he was even a member of the club. In fact, in 1960 Mr Smythe became a founder member of the

Many happy strips, mate

club: it prospered and soon instituted an annual awards ceremony. Andy Capp winning the panel strip prize for five consecutive years, an unequalled achievement.

Long before the glory years, however, Mr Smythe was working at the Post Office and dreaming of being a cartoonist. His first work sold in the early 1950s to the long-defunct magazine *Everybody's* for six guineas. "My gross earnings for the two cartoons came to more than I was making in a week at the GPO. That was all the incentive I needed," Mr Smythe says. "From that day onwards I not only worked at the Post Office, but I also drew 60 cartoons a week. I badly wanted to get into *Punch* because I couldn't stand being rejected by its editors. I sent them more than 6,000 cartoons before I had my one and only acceptance by them."

The less than successful stage and television versions of Andy Capp seem to have convinced Mr Smythe that his place is on the printed page, although spin-off merchandising has belatedly begun (banned by Hugh Cudlipp during his days at the *Mirror*) and now Andy appears on watches, T-shirts and aprons as well as beer cans, bottle openers and tankards. His appearance has altered a good deal over the years — a fuller stomach, pointer head — and so have his habits. Andy, unlike Mr Smythe, no longer smokes: the inch-long butt has vanished from the lower lip.

John Allard, Mr Smythe's long-time friend and editor at the *Mirror*, who at any time has on hand well over a year's supply of strips, also comments on the modified attitude to women, and Mr Smythe concurs: here was a deliberate decision, although Andy Capp has never been a specific target for feminist wrath. "I remember one early strip. Good God! It seems horrible now!" Mr Smythe says. "Florrie was lying on the floor after Andy had obviously thumped her, and he was saying, 'Look at it this way, pet. I'm a man of very few pleasures and this is one of them'. Can you imagine a time when you could actually get away with an idea like that?"

MEDIA MOLE

A THRILLER about the drug dealers of black London, *Yardie*, by Victor Headley, is No. 1 on the City Limits alternative best-seller list. The first title produced by X Press, the book was printed for £1,500 by three young men with no publishing experience, Steve Pope, Dotum Adeyayo and the author. The first run of 1,000 copies sold out, as did the second run of 4,000. The third run of 3,000 copies of the £5.95 paperback is about to reach the shops. "The success amazed us," Mr Pope says. "We've never had a review, just pieces in magazines."

Penguin has since approached the three, but has been refused. "We'll keep going by ourselves," Mr Pope says. "I think we've sold the film rights."

THE American Public Broadcasting Service network has transmitted a re-edited version of BBC-TV's drama, *The Lost Language of Cranes*, the story of a middle-aged man who comes to terms with his own homosexuality after discovering his son is gay. In the US version, the actors who appeared nude in Britain were shown wearing boxer shorts.

And when *Portrait of a Marriage*, the story of Vita Sackville-West's relationship with Violet Trefusis, is shown in America this month, 34 minutes will have been cut from the four-hour film, including a scene in which Vita dresses



Portrait of a Marriage: cuts

as a man and climbs into bed with Violet.

Both PBS versions have an introduction by Alistair Cooke who says the relationship between Vita and Violet was more a "dangerous interlude" than a grand passion.

Nobody is satisfied, however. The edits have offended American gay activists and the American Family Association has wondered publicly whether "this is the kind of programming taxpayers want to give \$1.1 billion to support."

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